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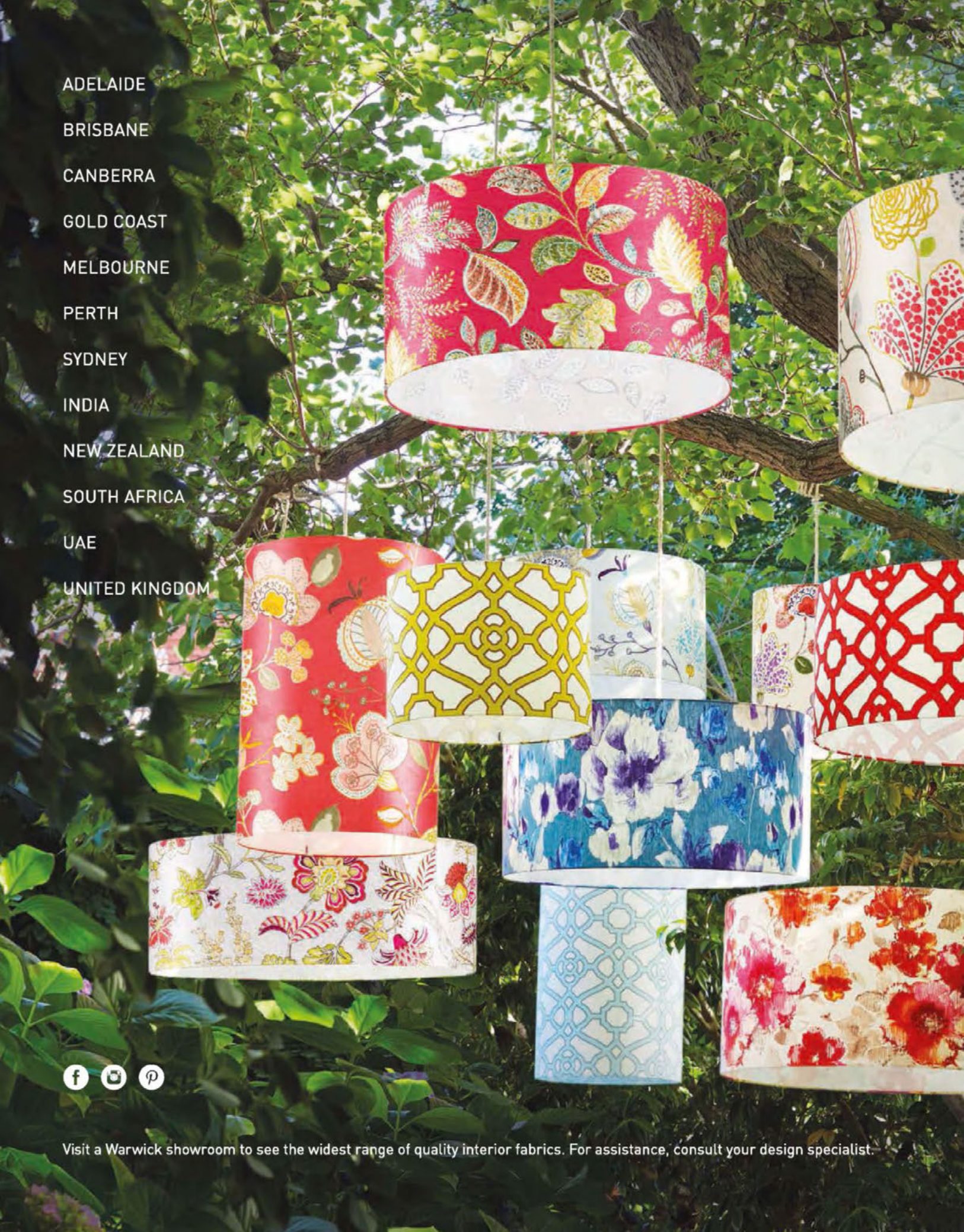
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Give in to a natural instinct... Materials and palettes from the outback

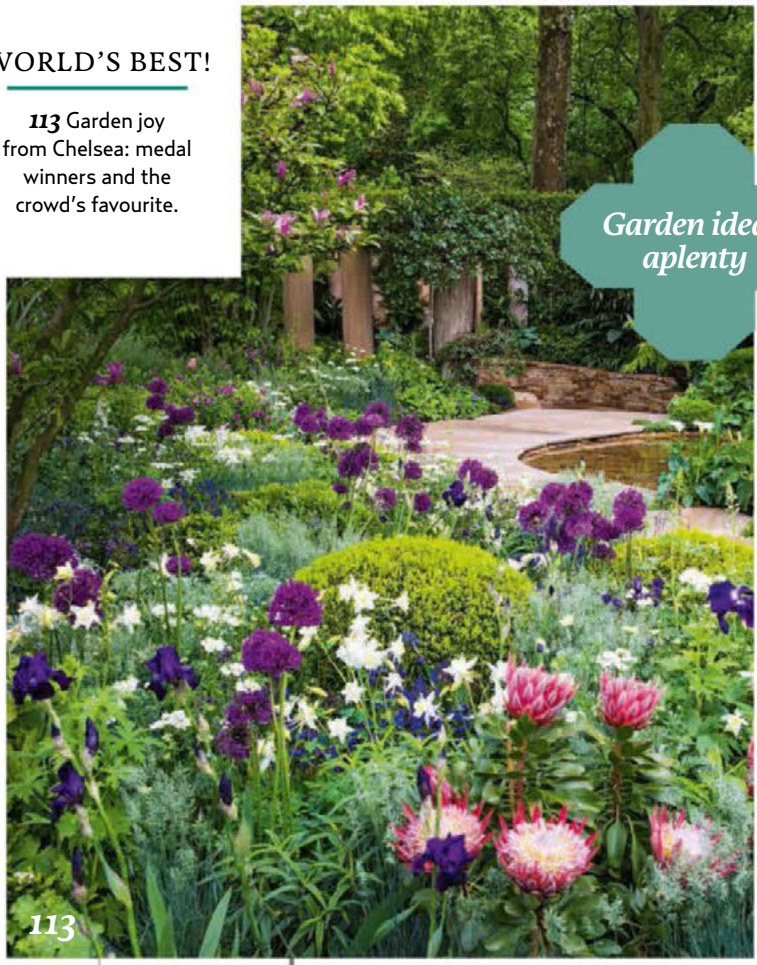
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Photograph by Darren McDonald (Lisa).

SHEDDING LIGHT

At the age of 10, I lived in a shed. Concrete slab and Colorbond shell, with a basic bathroom and an eclectic collection of fabric strung up to partition off one end. Behind the curtain were beds for us girls, lined up dormitory style, with chests of drawers used for storage and zoning. The living area, with Mum and Dad's bed in one corner, and a kitchen on the diagonal occupied the rest of the space.

We were there for a year, on a beautiful rural block, while my parents, with help from various quarters, cleaned about 40,000 salvaged sand stock bricks to build our new house. My father's vision, the lovely location, expansive glazing and an excellent brickie meant the resulting home was a pretty beautiful place to live. But we were also extremely happy in that simplest of dwellings, the shed.

I was reminded of this when I first read that this year's recipient of the Australian Institute of Architecture's Gold Medal, Sydney architect Peter Stutchbury, was living in a tent dwelling on the site of what will be his next home. Living under canvas, safari-style (and through some torrid weather conditions), he's uncovering the nuances of the land, ensuring the home that eventuates will have an intimate relationship with its site. And tent living has reinforced Stutchbury's long-held commitment to lean, low-energy buildings. "It makes you realise how little you need," he told journalist Kate Legge recently. "Real beauty is found with the least number of ingredients and the most amount of thinking".

Each of the homes in this issue, from inner-city Sydney, Melbourne and Perth to semi-rural NSW and Victoria, explores a considered, measured approach to design and a willingness to rethink space and build in more flexibility. Every abode, from a single gal's city apartment to two dwellings for downsizers and a young family's home, is carefully zoned, energy-aware, fitted with creature comforts and beautifully decorated. And each one is completely in tune with the owner's lifestyle and location. There are even two 'sheds' among them. You were ahead of your time Dad!

Enjoy the issue – and our annual Chelsea Flower Show report. Simply gorgeous.

Lisa

CONTRIBUTORS



CLAIRE TAKACS
Photographer

"I love to garden," says Claire. "I can understand how people get so carried away with it." Her affinity with gardens made her the perfect person to capture the living beauty of this year's Chelsea Flower Show report (page 113). "I love the way gardens and gardening are such a huge part of British culture. You really get to see and appreciate this at Chelsea."



UTE JUNKER
Travel writer

After a trip to the English town of Stoke-on-Trent for our story on historical potteries (page 144), Ute now knows teacups inside out. "It's astonishing how much work goes into a single piece – 25 people can work on a single cup," she says. When it's time for a cuppa of her own, Ute's refreshment of choice is a hot chocolate, "topped with plenty of whipped cream".

YOUR *H&G*

While I have often admired the beautiful covers of your magazine, I felt that July's offering was particularly charming. Judging by my recent experience, I am not the only one. During several visits to the newsagent, I overheard a number of people praising the image, from teenagers reminiscing fondly about "Nanna's place", to a lady instructing her partner to sell their apartment and get a "real home". Congratulations to the team.
Marcus Blinco, Edgewater, WA

Perfect finishes

July's decorating feature (A Cut Above) reinforced the direction of my new mantra: texture, texture, texture! Having recently kicked a colour addiction, I now love enriching a neutral palette with driftwood, cowhide, sisal and even the odd feather. Winter is the perfect time to savour those tactile joys – and there's always room for another chunky wool throw in the collection!
Nicoleta Sica, Mullaloo, WA

Living colour

Lisa's anecdote (Editor's Letter, June) about a friend's sister using colouring books and the activity of colouring in with her elderly mother brought back many colourful memories I have of my late grandpa. We didn't colour in together; rather, we took pleasure in picking and consuming vibrant red strawberries and tomatoes from the plants he had nurtured. Colour isn't just an aesthetic thing. A kaleidoscope of colour is created from time spent, activities enjoyed and memories made with our loved ones.
Kirsty Polujan, Lalor, Victoria

Special surprise

My wife has taken a six-month work contract interstate and left me in charge of sorting out our much-needed bathroom renovation before she returns. It's a daunting prospect as I have little experience. She did offer two pieces of advice before she left: stay away from 'bland' and have a look at the June issue of *H&G*. I was sceptical at first, but I thoroughly enjoyed reading through the pages of the Bathroom Special. With all the practical information, styles and suggestions in one place, I was able to see that the completion of this project will bring beauty and individuality into our home. It's still going to be a challenge, but at least I know now where I'm heading.
Malcolm Robert Palmer, Footscray, Victoria



WRITE IN TO WIN

The author of every letter published receives $50. Our favourite also wins a fabulous prize. This month, Marcus Blinco wins a limited-edition *Lady Camellia* art print (42x59cm) by Anna Johnson, valued at $280; www.annajohnson.com.au. Email your letter to h&g@bauer-media.com.au with your full name and address or post to Your *H&G*, PO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028.



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

BEARDED IRIS

Colours Every shade of pink, purple, yellow and white.
Shape "Unassuming in bud form, bearded iris transform into highly textured and intricate blooms, all delicate ruffles and exquisite patterns," says Sydney florist Jai Winnell of Hermetica Flowers.
Look for Buy them closed and enjoy their transformation: "Ask your florist to point them out because you might not notice their closed buds among the more showy blooms".
Best displayed "I love a single stem in a bud vase, but you can mix them with other favourites such as big roses and dahlias to create a beautiful, opulent arrangement," says Jai, who cites black-purple 'Witches Sabbath' and the textured white 'Queen of Angels' as his favourite varieties of bearded iris.
Hermetica Flowers; (02) 9380 4725 or www.hermeticaflowers.com.au. See Jai's floral arrangement using bearded irises on our Pinterest page in August.

Illustration by Allison Langton. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



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the palette

In cheery red and the warmest of whites, this Aztec-inspired rug is handmade and awaiting a spot in front of the fire. The red repeats in this folksy rocker and we love it used in combination with the emerald throw – the foundations of our palette for the month. Add earthy neutrals and handcrafted objects to warm hearts and home.







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Haymes Paint Tease

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INSPIRED BUYS

Monte Vibrant **rug** (2.3x1.8m); www.pampa.com.au. Kerflight Rita powder-coated steel and corrugated-fibreboard **sconce,** about $506, Graypants; www.graypants.com. Ceramics Studio Thrown terracotta and stoneware **salad bowl,** $100, JamFactory; (08) 8410 0727 or www.jamfactory.com.au. Real Living chunky knit **throw** (1.3x1.7m) in Emerald, $179, Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au. Värmdö pine **rocking chair,** $179, Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea.com.au.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow. Currency conversion correct at time of printing.



Homeowner and chef Brigid Kennedy prepares one of her sublime preserves in the custom-designed kitchen. The generous recycled-timber island bench is constructed from two units resized to work as one. Units and stools, Stone Pony. Pendant light, Perfect Pieces. Brigid and her partner Kevin laid french-oak floors throughout. Artwork by Brigid's sister, Lucy Kennedy.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

THE OPEN PLAN

A chef and furniture restorer have carved a big-hearted home out of a rustic barn in NSW's Southern Highlands, and now delight in sharing the fruits of their labour.

STORY **VANESSA WALKER** / STYLING **ASHLEY PRATT** / PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS WARNES**





The first time Brigid Kennedy and Kevin Nott laid eyes on their future home it was a 41x12m barn. A barn with a concrete floor and double-brick walls, but a barn nevertheless. Set on 40ha of undulating land near Berrima, a historical village in the Southern Highlands of NSW, the barn was on the first package of land released by Boral when it divvyed up a 1214ha former quarry in 2011.

Both Brigid and Kevin come from rural families but had spent years carving out careers in Sydney: Brigid is a chef and author who owns an event space at Walsh Bay and Kevin is a landscaper by trade; a furniture restorer by preference. For this couple, buying the property was the first step in a return to full-time country life.

It took 18 months to convert the barn into a home, during which time they camped out in a partitioned-out corner of its cavernous shell. Kevin took on the role of owner-builder, living on-site full-time. Brigid, who lives in Sydney during the week, where her teenage son is at school, helped at the property on weekends.

Despite having eight renovations under her belt, Brigid says this conversion was no picnic. "Kevin used to throw water over – at! – me for a shower and there was no toilet," she says. From the outset they decided to add another storey to the barn, with a separate entrance and four bedrooms to be run as boutique farm-stay accommodation.

On the ground floor, in their two-bedroom home, Brigid has created an open-plan space that reflects the home's origins and speaks to its bucolic surrounds. Room-wise, the kitchen was her focus. As a chef who specialises in slow-cooking, she had her heart set on an ▶

'I love the vintage-industrial aesthetic and the way it can look both elegant and "country".'

Brigid Kennedy

ABOVE / Exposed rafters are a reminder of the home's origins – the timber chandeliers from OneWorld Collection bring a touch of glamour to the space. The fire surround is made from recycled-oregon peeled off the barn's fascia. Sofas and armchair, Freedom. Rug, Lawsons. Coffee table, Perfect Pieces. Brigid picked up the artworks on a visit to Rome.

OPPOSITE / Spindle-back chairs from Lawsons and a turned-leg table bought at auction set a traditional country scene. Rug, Bowral Rug Gallery. Chandelier, Horgans. Candlestick, Perfect Pieces.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



'When we have family and friends over we love to put food out in a rustic, help-yourself country style.'
Brigid



RIGHT / Simple black and white vanities paired with timber accessories reflect the industrial-rustic aesthetic Brigid loves. Vanities (now discontinued), Horgans. Bath, mixer, tiles and towel rail, Harvey Norman. Mirror, Mediterranean Markets. Rug, Home & Giftware.
BELOW / The main bedroom's bedside table, found at auction all split and scratched, showcases Kevin's talent for restoring antiques. Together Brigid and Kevin also adapted the Horgans bedhead to fit their bed. Rug, Lawsons.
OPPOSITE / An antique rug from Bowral Rug Gallery grounds and warms up this elegant guestroom. Pendant light, Perfect Pieces. Bed, Freedom. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



◀ industrial kitchen with three ovens. One Emilia and two Bakbar models were duly installed, as was a vast island bench that can seat six.

Design-wise, paint colours were her primary concern. "We took every green in existence and worked out which three had the most harmony," says Brigid. This turned out to be Dulux Plantation Green, used in the guestroom, a now-discontinued colour called Blaxland for the trims and Porter's Paints Chintz Grey in the living areas.

Today the homestead is surrounded by 2ha of companion-planted gardens. There are vegie beds as well as vegies dispersed among the trees; onions surround the brassicas to keep white cabbage butterflies away; chives, garlic and basil ward off aphids from the roses. Silver birch, poplars, magnolias and native frangipani are dotted throughout. Beyond this is an orchard planted in fig, quince, medlars, apricot, plum, peach, pear and apple trees. There is also pasture for the couple's five horses and accommodation for a brood of ISA brown hens.

The newly christened Loch farm is a study in building a lifestyle around what you love. On a fine day, Kevin refurbishes antiques on the verandah, which he sells from the old stables. Brigid spends Saturdays harvesting produce for her delicious condiments and jams, which she sells at the Loch Sunday Stall, located on her front verandah. As Brigid says, slowly and steadily, their dream is coming to fruition. ▶

www.theloch.net.au.









CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT / Brigid with her harvest of beetroot, lettuce and capsicum, among other goodies. The front garden presents as a painterly canvas of *Erigeron glaucus,* hidcote, cotton and Italian lavender, *Gaura* 'Siskiyou Pink', dahlias, and native frangipani. Kevin and Raffles the border collie with brood mares Katie and Clementine.
OPPOSITE / Raffles relaxes in this wonderfully positioned outdoor kitchen, which accommodates a brick fireplace, a spit and barbecue. Kevin made the floor from old hardwood and poured concrete, after Brigid admired a similar style in a magazine.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. ▶



look we love

Its origins as a barn are now well disguised, yet the combination of refined and industrial elements drives the success of this home's interior. Build a rich country blend with seasoned timbers, rugs and leather pieces, topped off with smooth ceramics in muted hues.





Lucci Decor Chambord walnut **pendant light**, $795, Beacon Lighting; 1300 232 266 or www.beaconlighting.com.au. Valby Ruta synthetic-fibre **rug** (1.7x2.3m), $199, and Kastrull wood and enamelled-steel **pot**, $25, both Ikea; (02) 8020 6641 or www.ikea.com.au. Somerset **three-seater sofa** with polyester and chenille upholstery, $779, Fantastic Furniture; www.fantasticfurniture.com.au. Cooper iron **side table** with oak top, $399, Dare Gallery; www.daregallery.com.au. Fog Seersucker linen **coaster**, about $7, Father Rabbit; www.fatherrabbit.com. Porcelain ceramic **jug** in Antique Green, $95, Horgans; (02) 9557 7800; or www.horgans.com.au. H&G

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Styling by Ashley Pratt. Photograph by Maree Homer. Artwork by Kara Rosenlund.

DECORATING

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SUNBURNT COUNTRY

Sweeping plains, ragged mountain ranges and jewel seas... It's only natural to be inspired by Australia's arresting landscape.

STYLING **ASHLEY PRATT** / PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**

FROM LEFT / Oly San Francisco Anders **occasional chair** with hide seat, $6145, Coco Republic. Julian Chichester Frank metal **console** with leather top, $2500, Laura Kincade. Demijohn glass **lamp** with hemp shade, $129, Freedom. Stone stoneware **canisters**, $115 (medium) and $140 (large), Jardan. Oly San Francisco *English Clouds* **oil painting,** $4295, Coco Republic. Brooklyn leather **three-seater sofa,** $1999, Freedom. **ON SOFA from left** Cashmere-wool **throw,** $163, Linen & Moore. Maidenhair Floral suede **cushion,** $245, and Cocky 2 linen **cushion,** $185, Bonnie and Neil. Riva 1920 Eco cedar **coffee table,** $3795, Fanuli. Wire and rope **birds,** $59/each, Maison et Jardin. Jawa iron **pendant light,** from $1650, Emac & Lawton. Tonk tall timber **stool,** $610, MCM House. Tapered resin **vase,** $170, KeepResin. Sweeney American-oak **chair** with wool-nylon upholstery, $4292, Jardan. Claremont wool-art silk **rug** (3x4m), $8800, The Rug Establishment. Wall painted Interno Lime Wash in Mykonos, $45/L, Porter's Paints (throughout). Flowers from Poho Flowers (throughout).
PREVIOUS PAGE / Duxton timber **bench** with leather seat, $859, Domayne. Akubra Cattleman felt hat, $180, RM Williams. *Australian Road Trip* **print,** $350, Kara Rosenlund. Ribba fibreboard **frame,** $59, Ikea. Paper, cotton and leather **tote,** $169, Uashmama. Vintage glass **demijohn,** $249, Maison et Jardin. Hare+Klein Unearthed hemp-silk **rug** (2x3m), $5790, Designer Rugs.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Stylist's assistants Sarah Maloney & Lisa Dingelmaier.



ABOVE / **clockwise from top left** Quercus & Co Heath Banksia linen-polyester **fabric** in Tawny, $198/m, Tigger Hall Design. 1803 hand-forged **paring knife** with antler handle, $220, 1803 Artisan Deer Design. Stoneware **bowl** with fluted edge, $32, Bendigo Pottery. Malcolm Greenwood Shino ceramic **beaker,** $27, and **teapot,** $145, Koskela. Resin **teaspoon,** $18, **salad bowl,** $199, and **medium bowl,** $90, all KeepResin. Timothy Oulton Blackhawk Jumbo leather **coffee table,** $3595, Coco Republic.
OPPOSITE / **from left** *Desert* by Ross Lawrence **print,** $2200 (framed), MCM House. Timothy Oulton Mimi **dining chairs** with leather upholstery, $795/each, Coco Republic. Berlin **dining table** with mangowood top, $1150, Orson & Blake. Resin **candleholders,** $170/set of three, KeepResin. Green clay **bowl,** $485, Fanuli. Porcelain Bear porcelain **bowl** in Indigo, $130, Jardan. Kebo cotton **scarf,** $60, Once Was Lost. Martyn Lawrence Bullard Kabba Kabba With Dots linen **cushion,** $245, Tigger Hall Design. Yuta Badayala woven-grass **pendant light shade,** $2800, Koskela. New York sectional **mirror,** $2200, MCM House. Dusk Till Dawn wool **rug** (2.5x3.5m), $6150, Cadrys. Texline Urban vinyl **flooring** in Boston Dark, $45/m² (installed), Gerflor (throughout).
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



FAR HORIZONS

Quality materials improve with age and won't date. Juxtapose the rough with the smooth to build interest.



THE HOT GOLD HUSH OF NOON

Embrace the interplay of light, colour and texture. Linen is for all seasons.



ABOVE / Gubi Adnet Circulaire **mirror,** $1279, Surrounding Australia. Pod Luxe Weave kangaroo-leather **pendant light,** $595, Shelf/Life. True Blue porcelain **vase,** $139, Angus & Celeste. Stanley reclaimed-timber **stool,** $989, Jardan. Duravit DuraStyle **vanity,** from $1530, Candana Bathroomware. ON BASIN Leif **body balm,** $28, and Trail Crew **liquid soap,** $40, Shelf/Life. ON SHELF Luxury Retreat cotton **hand towels,** $33/each, Sheridan. Diptyque **candle,** $112, Mecca Cosmetica. Leif **body cleanser,** $20, and wire **bowl,** $25, Shelf/Life. Iron **12-drawer tallboy,** $1299, Domayne. Elcho Island grass **mat,** $155, Koskela. Colorbond **corrugated steel** in Pale Eucalypt, POA, Colorbond (throughout).
OPPOSITE / Cole & Son Alva **wallpaper,** POA, Radford (throughout). *Wild Horses* **print,** $350, Kara Rosenlund. Ribba fibreboard **frame,** $59, Ikea. Traveller linen-wrapped **bedside table,** $729, La Maison. Ranarp nickel-plated **lamp,** $50, Ikea. Porcelain Bear porcelain **vase,** $130, Jardan. Diptyque **candle,** $78, Mecca Cosmetica. Quercus & Co Coral Fern linen-polyester **fabric,** $198/m, Tigger Hall Design. ON BED **from rear** Abbotson linen **pillowcase,** $80, Sheridan. Mondo queen-size linen **sheet set,** $511, Linen & Moore. Abbotson queen-size linen **quilt cover,** $500, Sheridan. Hair-on hide **cushion,** $260, and Double Suede **throw,** $575, 1803 Artisan Deer Design. Classic Short sheepskin **boots,** $240, Ugg Australia. Indian Modern Tribal wool **rug** (1.5x2.4m), $2450, Cadrys.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



GREEN TANGLE OF THE BRUSHES

Borrowed from the bush, eucalyptus hues, wood and stone are equally pleasing indoors.



ABOVE / **from left** Lowlife **ottoman** with suede upholstery, $450, MCM House. Stoneware **bud vase,** $20, Bendigo Pottery. Serax Mossed Cylinder ceramic **pot,** $31/set of two, Beautiful Spaces Inside and Out. Olive & Barrel oak **paddle board,** $119, Maison et Jardin. Rio metal **lantern,** $50, Papaya. Riva 1920 Vivo 5 cedar **side table,** $1235, Fanuli. Nightfall glass **lanterns** with leather straps, $35 (small) and $70 (large), Papaya. Glass and brass **hurricane lantern** with leather handle, $220, Orson & Blake. T-yarn woven-cotton **bowls** in Grey, $40 (small), and in Black, $65 (medium), One Another. Antique Grande glass and brass **lantern,** $429, La Maison.
OPPOSITE / **from left** Handwoven cotton **throw** in Charcoal/Ivory Stripe, $80, Once Was Lost. Kristalia Sharky polyurethane **chair** with oak legs, $895, Fanuli. Barnsbury mangowood **console,** $449, Freedom.
ON CONSOLE **from rear** Cobalt Stripe ceramic **planter,** $79, and White Glaze ceramic **planter,** $79, Koskela. Rounded resin **planter on stand,** from $260, KeepResin. Serax Mossed Cylinder ceramic **pots,** $18/set of two, Beautiful Spaces Inside and Out. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. H&G

STYLE FILE

MELISSA PENFOLD



Australia's keenest decorating eye shares her insider's view of decor trends, must-have pieces from around the world and objects of desire close to home.

Refresh your home with the 'New Simple' treatment. It's all about assembling timeless elements and honest materials into looks that last, making everyday objects and rituals a pleasure. Here's how...

- ✚ Start with a pale neutral you love, and stick with it.
- ✚ Go for texture. This look is based on rough, earthy surfaces – think wood, linen, canvas, leather, brick, stone – that lend themselves to a relaxed, casual vibe.
- ✚ Use different timbers. It's far more natural and less contrived than a perfect match.
- ✚ Mix styles: Scandi, beach, rustic, vintage... A combination of styles, periods, looks and materials is essential to create this easy-to-live-with look.
- ✚ Timeless classics are the key. A great example is the CH24 Wishbone chair (above), designed by Hans Wegner in 1949 and still relevant. Available in oak, beech, ash, maple, walnut or cherry, from $1316/each, at Cult; 1300 768 626 or www.cultdesign.com.au.

Follow me on Instagram at @melissa_penfold.



CALL ME MONA

Check out these Mona lights, $2625/each, by Czech firm Brokis. The textile straps and smoky shades, pierced by an LED tube, elevate the purely functional to fab. Spence & Lyda; (02) 9212 6747 or www.spenceandlyda.com.au.



We're loving the luxurious textures and shades of the Land Sea collection from Italian textiles brand Society. Snuggle up in this sublime Des wool blanket in Polinesia, $765, and Rem linen king-size sheet in Sole, $480. Available at Ondene; (02) 9362 1734 or www.ondene.com.



HANDLE WITH FLAIR

Rip out every ugly piece of door hardware in the house and follow design insiders to Mother of Pearl & Sons Trading in Sydney and Melbourne, where you'll find the latest looks in lever sets, knobs, pulls, cups and rings. You can't go wrong with these beauties by US brand Sun Valley Bronze, from $59/each. (02) 8332 6999 or www.motherofpearl.com.

BURNING LOVE

A Lumira soy wax candle in its elegant glass holder, $55, makes a chic gift or sweet personal indulgence that will burn for 80 hours. Choose from divine scents such as Cuban Tobacco and Tuscan Fig. www.atelierlumira.com.



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New NESCAFÉ® Gold Barista Style is a perfect combination of premium instant coffee with added finely ground roasted coffee beans, inspired by café-quality, barista-made coffee. There are two blends to enjoy – Smooth, with its rich, well rounded taste and a layer of silky golden crema, or Intense with a sharper, dark, full-bodied flavour and deep aroma. So once you try it, we're sure you'll agree, it's our best coffee yet.



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A LOOK WE LOVE

DREAM STATE

Create an inviting retreat for sweet slumber with an elegant and restful bedroom scheme.

TEXT BY **CHRIS PEARSON** / PHOTOGRAPH BY **MAREE HOMER**



Shades of grey
Walls in Dulux Linseed lend warmth to a room that faces south-east, as well as a sense of serenity. Textiles in subtle, smoky tones of slate blue and taupe play to the grey wall, while the white lampshades and the upholstered bench add bursts of freshness.

Curtain call
Full curtains lend an air of theatre and 'hug' the space. "Long pinch-pleat curtains in rich damask create a cocooning effect," says Kate. "Make them as long as you can; it adds visual height to the room." The generous puddling of fabric on the floor adds to the overall sumptuousness.

Ottoman rule
An upholstered bench serves as a footnote. It balances out the bedhead while presenting a handy place to place blankets or lay out clothes. This example from The Country Trader makes a strong style statement.

For Where to Buy, see page 188. Paint colour is reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



Love what you have
"Work with existing pieces as much as you can. They add integrity and another layer of interest to a room," says Kate. This scheme ties together cherished pieces such as an antique timber bedside table and artworks by Frank Mahony (opposite) and Adelaide Perry.

Layer it on
Layering bedlinen sets up variations in texture, colour and pattern that are pleasing to see and touch. Cervino cotton bedcover, Urano linen pillowcases and Eldorado linen-cotton patterned cushions all from Busatti.

A fine balance
Symmetry creates a classic structured look, but keep it in check. While the lamps match, identical tables would have felt too much like a hotel, says Kate. "This is soft on one side and structured on the other, so the room feels relaxed, not stitched up."

THE PALETTE

Dulux Linseed
walls

Urano linen



KATE NIXON

Designer/stylist, Busatti Studio

The brief
For these empty-nesters, a wish to revamp their bedroom became a valuable investment in a calm and restful space. Sydney-based retailer and interiors specialist Kate Nixon, who's also *H&G*'s interiors editor, was called on to help create a room that would be a joy to wake up in. "It had to be elegant and sophisticated, in a neutral palette with layers of texture to add interest," says Kate. And a little luxurious, too. **H&G**

Busatti Studio, Double Bay, NSW; (02) 9363 4318 or www.busattistudio.com.au.

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MASTERCLASS #8

KITCHENS



Start with the practicalities of location and layout before adding a personal stamp with materials, finishes and colours, writes **Darren Palmer.**



Photo Credit: xxxx

There was a time when planning a kitchen was relatively simple. First, you chose a layout: U shape, L shape, galley or island. Next, you had to consider the work triangle – the relationship between fridge, sink and stove – and make sure there was no more than a step or two between each. Then you added a bench and storage, and the job was done.

You still need to consider all these things, of course, and the work triangle is no less important. But these days, kitchens have morphed into strenuously functional and beautifully designed spaces.

Innovation is what today's kitchens are all about. And while it can be tricky to find a balance between current and enduring styles, trends present a good way to educate yourself on the latest materials, styles, profiles and fittings.

But first things first. As with any room, it's important to know just what you need to achieve. Think about the space and the size of your current kitchen, as well as its location. Where does it sit in relation to the living and dining zones? Is it already in the right spot, or could you relocate it to better serve the occupants and the flow of the home? And how big does your kitchen need to be in order to function properly?

Once you lock in the location and size, and have a rough idea of the layout, look closely at storage. Think about all the things you need to accommodate: pots and pans, plasticware, glasses, crockery, cutlery, food, cutting boards, appliances and odds and ends such as plastic wrap and tea towels. Every one of those things needs a home. Each drawer and cupboard needs to have a designated function, so you know where everything will go and can make sure that everything will ultimately fit.

Think about what form this storage should take in order to suit the objects inside, and the level of access you need to make working in your kitchen a breeze.

Anything located above eye level must obviously be a shelf, either open or behind doors. Drawers work better under benches than cabinets more often than not. They allow you to see all the contents within and to easily grab just what you need. Dividers for large, wide drawers offer a great way to stack glasses, plates and bowls for easy under-bench access. For odd corners there are brilliant fittings that allow you to pull out an entire corner unit, so you can see everything within.



EACH DRAWER AND CABINET NEEDS TO HAVE A DESIGNATED FUNCTION.

◂ Pull-out pantries are the bomb but not all are created equal. Personally, I like to customise them with a mix of drawers and open shelves. You can also buy fittings that split the contents into two sections for accessibility, as seen above: the front shelves are attached to the door and as you open it, the rear shelves move forward. That means nothing will languish in the back for years.

Next, consider the aesthetic angle on storage. What will the drawer and cabinet fronts be made from? What is the best colour and material solution? White is a safe and popular choice, but there are ways to jazz it up and elevate it to something special. Benchtops, splashbacks (think tiles, mirror, or stone), handles and door profile styles all add extra interest.

Go wild thinking about contrasting materials – timber, veneer, vinyl wrap, polyurethane, laminate – and exciting finishes. Mixing different textures, colours, gloss levels and patterns can give you a unique and bespoke look. Start a scrapbook, put your choices together and make sure that they work on paper before applying them to the real world. A big risk can bring big rewards but as this is one of the most expensive and enticing spaces in any house, make sure you create the right kitchen for you, your family and your home. **H&G**

APPROACH THE BENCHTOP

- Statuario Nuvo, pictured here, is the latest nature-inspired option in quartz surfaces from Caesarstone. It offers the drama and contrast of classic veined marble without the porosity issues of natural stone.
- Caesarstone also has a choice of edgy, concrete-look finishes – Raw Concrete and Fresh Concrete are the latest additions – covering light and dark, warm and cool spectrums.
- Corian's seamless solid-surface solutions allow you to cover benchtops with no joins. There are many colour options and slab thicknesses available; try Light Ash, an elegant neutral, in 12mm for a chic and super-slim profile.
- In terms of heat resistance, porosity and hygiene, not much beats stainless steel. This material will inevitably sustain scratches, however, so you need to be prepared to live with that fact.
- Natural stone is a beautiful and visually striking material with excellent heat-resisting properties, which makes it perfect for applications adjoining a cooktop. Be aware, though, that lemon juice, bleach, tomatoes, red wine or anything with an acidic base, as well as some coloured materials, can easily mark natural stone. Some stones are harder than others, so consider how much a chip in a new benchtop would upset you before committing.
- Laminate benchtops are a good low-cost option for a quick revamp or budget improvement. They come in options that mimic timber and stone, as well as classic and on-trend colours. Square-edge laminate profiles are conducive to a slick, contemporary look, while rolled bullnose edges suit a traditional aesthetic. The only real drawback is that because laminates come in set lengths, you'll have subtle join lines in corners and on very long benchtops.



To hear more tips from Darren, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.

Photography by Felix Forest (kitchen, pantry) from *Easy Luxury* by Darren Palmer (Murdoch Books, $39.99).



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Value Collection
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Fashion Avenue, Light Brown



Luxury Collection
Tidal, Crucial



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TRENDS

JUST PEACHY

Sweet and oh-so-soft, peach is the perfect antidote to winter's deep and dark colours. Go glam with accents of gold or freshen up with touches of white.















1 / Lucinda Vintage wooden **cupboard** with mesh panels in Dusty Coral, $1099, Sage and Clare; www.sageandclare.com. **2 /** Jolie linen-cotton **cushion cover,** $90, Citta Design; www.cittadesign.com.au. **3 /** Farve leather **wallet** in Sable/Canyon, $135, Elk; (03) 9478 1800 or www.elkaccessories.com.au. **4 /** Pastel Dip earthenware **vessel** in Pink, $20, Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au. **5 /** Limoges porcelain **teacup and saucer** with platinum trim in Rose Petal, $150, Francalia; (02) 9948 4977 or www.francalia.com.au. **6 /** Anna Karnov Pick ME ash **stool** in Rosa, $299, Urbaani Homewares; 0438 766 011 or www.urbaani.com.au. **7 /** Pentagon ceramic **wall planter** in Peach, $26, Mint Interior Design; www.mintinteriordesign.com.au. **8 /** Dash cotton **rug** in Peach/Gold (90x150cm), $460, Langdon Ltd; 0402 266 836 or www.langdonltd.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Kayla Gex & Ashley Pratt. Styling & photography by Phoebe Bell (main image).

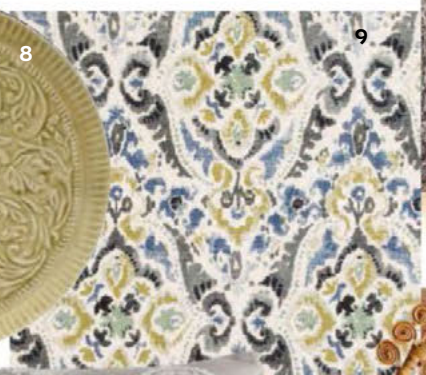
TRENDS

GIVE IT A SWIRL

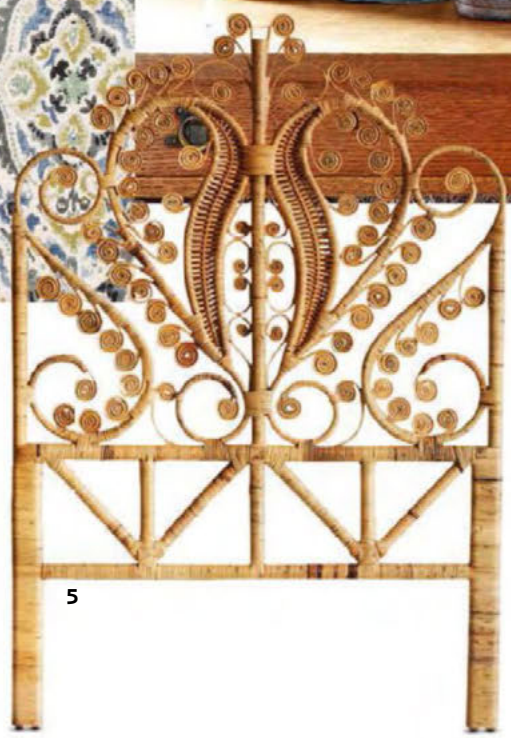
Paisley is right on trend as designers rework this classic motif in scales large and small. In sweetly muted colours it's a pattern fit to unfurl on myriad surfaces.

















1 / Mark Alexander Folk Dharma linen **fabric** in Aluminium, $295/m, Marco; (03) 9882 7238 or www.marcofabrics.com.au. 2 / Royal Hamam Block Print Paisley wooden **frame**, $55, Zanui; 1300 668 317 or www.zanui.com.au. 3 / Flowerbomb porcelain **vase**, $80, Samantha Robinson Handmade Porcelain; samantharobinson.com.au. 4 / Tall porcelain **teacup**, $39, Samantha Robinson Handmade Porcelain. 5 / Peacock king-single rattan **bedhead**, $399, The Family Love Tree; (03) 9429 5864 or www.thefamilylovetree.com.au. 6 / Cohen block-printed organic cotton **reversible coverlet** (225x240cm), $299, Sage and Clare; www.sageandclare.com. 7 / Sycamore cotton-linen rectangular **cushion** in Dove Grey, $80; Laura Ashley; 1800 033 453 or www.laura-ashley.com.au. 8 / Enamelled **cake platter** in Parchment, $50, Ruby Star Traders; (02) 9518 7899 or www.rubystar.com. 9 / Cornucopia Tiverton cotton-linen **fabric** in Lagoon, $110/m, Warwick Fabrics; www.warwick.com.au. **H&G**

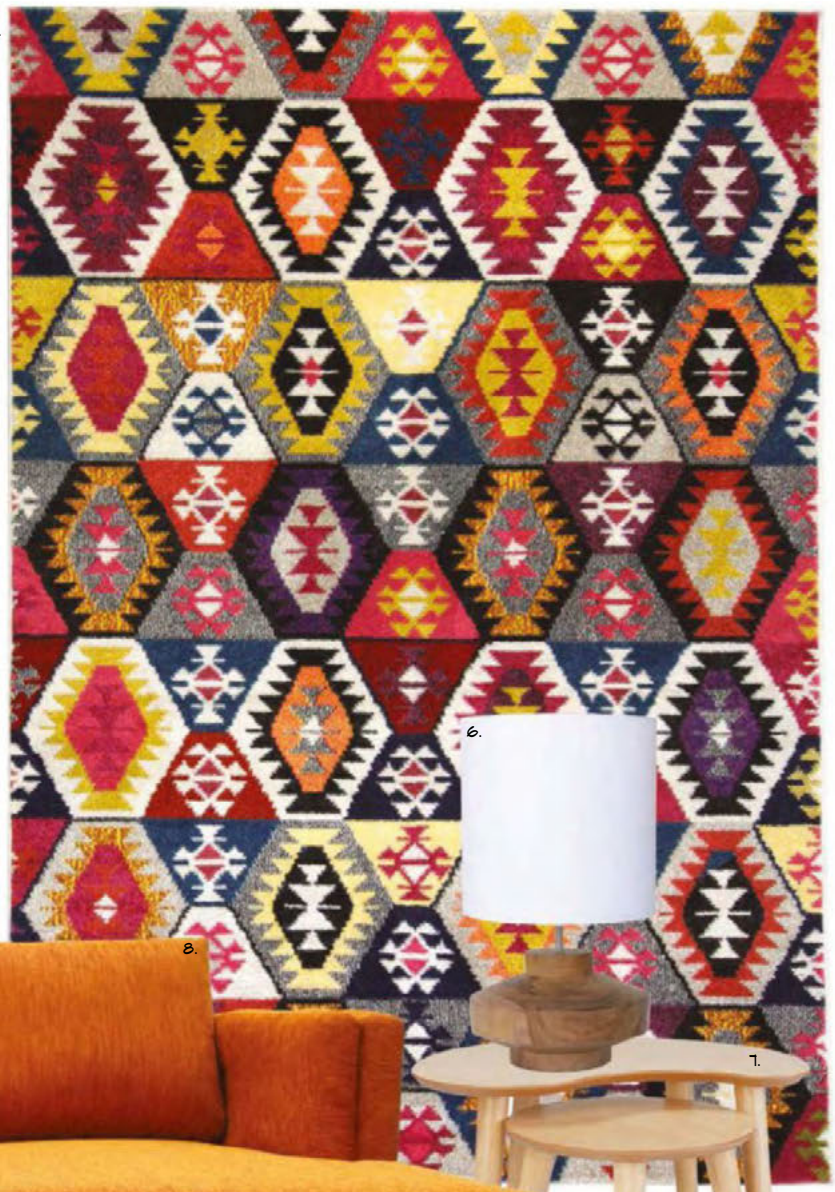
Produced by Kayla Gex.


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FRAGRANCE
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WARM
BREEZE
AND FINALLY
DRIFTWOOD
new
FRESHMATIC
automatic spray
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At home with interior designer Denai Kulcsar

INSIDER

NEWS & REVIEWS / DESIGN MOMENT

Styling by Ashley Pratt. Photography by John Paul Urizar.

DENAI KULCSAR
interior designer

The gracious home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs that Denai shares with her husband, Frankie, and their children Noah, Hugo and Sienna, showcases her elegant style.

MY FAVE THINGS
(see previous page)

Ginger jars Purchased more than 20 years ago from Orient House, they're the first grown-up things I bought for my home.

Place des Vosges print Found in a vintage shop while on a weekend break.

Encyclopaedias My grandfather's fitness encyclopaedias. Having them around keeps him in my life.

Sculpture in glass dome I found this guy in Paris.

Clock Another antique shop find, this time from a little place called The Trading Post in Canowindra, in central west NSW, where I grew up.

Orchid Fresh flowers make a home feel alive and happy. I adore orchids.

Candlesticks Orient House again. I love their rustic look.

Cushion A piece I designed myself for my business.

Etched-glass bottle I adore the femininity of this bottle. It's from Parterre.

Cire Trudon's Ernesto candle From The Country Trader. It's my all-time favourite scent.

www.dkinteriors.com.au.



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For creative solutions to design and bigger challenges, peruse the pages of Terence Conran's **Conran on Colour** *(Hachette, $49.99) and* **Designed for the Future** *by Jared Green (Princeton Architectural Press, about $32).*



We adore the delicate painterly glow created by the stained-ceramic Dusked pendant light from Studio Enti. Each 20cm shade is handmade and can be customised to produce diffused or focused light. $363; www.catapultdesign.net.au.

Text by Christina Gee. Photograph by Natasha Lorenzen (pendant light). Currency conversion correct at time of printing. For Where to Buy, see page 188.

STORY OF A BRAND
Tefal

1954
Marc Grégoire invents a non-stick coating for cookware.



1956
Tefal is founded in France and begins mass production.



1961
Tefal takes its non-stick cookware to global markets. ▶



The Top Loader that thinks it's a Front Loader





With the new LG SmartWasher Top Loaders, you can now experience the convenience of a Top Loader, with features usually associated with Front Loaders. The LG SmartWasher uses a combination of 6 motions, based on hand-washing movements to provide an outstanding wash, whilst caring for your clothes. It also features an on-board heater* to help remove common household allergens and stubborn stains.

LG SmartWasher: Innovation for a better life

*This feature applies to models WTG9532VH (shown), WTG9532WH, WTG8532WH.

LG
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GETTIN' ZIGGY WITH IT

The jazzy Ziggy pendant shade is a collaboration between Bernabeifreeman and ISM Objects. Made from perforated metal, it sends light dancing around a room. $1012 (tall), $1056 (squat). www.ismobjects.com.au.

MODERNISM AND MILITARIA COMBINE IN THE INHERITANCE COLLECTION BY STEPHEN KENN. WE LOVE THE CITY GYM SOFA, POA. WWW.CRITERIACOLLECTION.COM.AU.



DOMESTIC BLISS

Sew special

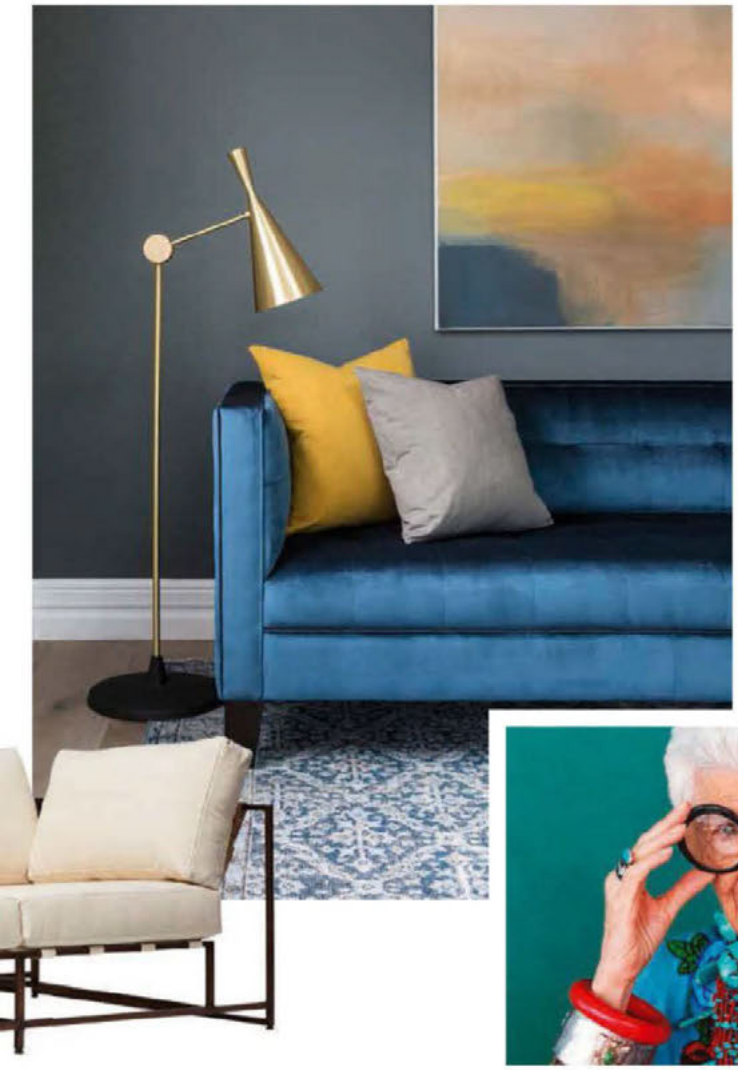
Quilting. The word evokes communal sewing sessions and remnants of fabric, but quilts are supremely personal – the tattoo art of their time. In 1888, Christina Brown of Lithgow, NSW, stitched a silk 'crazy' quilt covered in domestic objects, flowers and private symbolism. Similarly, an intricate quilt by NSW woman Clara Bate featuring oddities such as bugs, bobbins and handcuffs became so well known that the Duke and Duchess of York popped in to admire it while touring Australia in 1927. The craft largely remained a hobby until Tracey Emin used the medium for her 1993 work *Hotel International*, the first 'punk' quilt. In a new exhibition, Labours of Love, early quilts are displayed alongside a new generation in which artists use the medium to address contemporary issues. *The Wedding Quilt* by Lucas Grogan features 4000 polyester flowers appliquéd on synthetic silk to emulate a bridal bed. It also has an open-ended date, pointing to the unresolved issue of legalising

◀ 1974
Tefal adds a waffle iron to the range. Soon, it's a must-have item.



2000
The Thermo-spot temperature sensor is introduced.





Lovers of luxe fabrics rejoice! The new easy-clean Chateau velvet from James Dunlop Textiles (left) delivers on both durability and good looks, and is available in a choice of 26 colourways. www.jamesdunloptextiles.com.

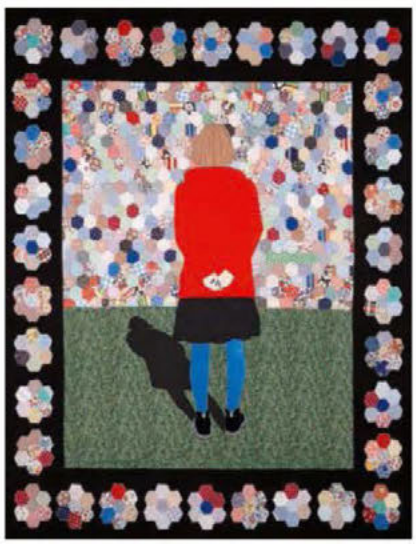
The jam-packed program at this year's Melbourne International Film Festival includes short and feature films, 'audiovisual artistry' and docos such as *Iris*, which follows NY fashion queen, Iris Apfel (below). July 30–August 16; www.miff.com.au.



Photograph of Iris Apfel courtesy Melbourne International Film Festival.

same-sex marriages. Adrienne Doig uses Depression-era feedbag cotton to create artworks that look like modernist paintings and textile cartoons. One quilt references a bad review with the words "NOT WORTH IT"; another – *The View (Honeycomb)*, right – shows the artist staring into a decorative void. Her work asks the age-old question: is the quilter an artist or 'just a woman'. The answer, of course, is both. – *Anna Johnson*

Labours of Love is on at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre in Gymea, NSW, from August 8; (02) 8536 5700. **H&G**



2006
ActiFry, the world's first low-oil fryer, makes a splash.



2015
Cuisine Companion, a processor and cooker in one, is launched.





The Top Loader that thinks it's a Front Loader



Amanda
BLOG SITE - MUMMAHH

Amanda of Mummahh was impressed by the pre-set modes of the machine: "This washing machine does almost everything for you (except put the washing in). It will work out the water level and detergent amount. It is quiet, efficient and looks very impressive."

She went on to describe how she loves that the LG SmartWasher "doesn't have an oscillator and that means you can wash larger things like doonas and curtains easily. I also love that it sings a little tune when it's finished and that it has so many presents and washing programs; so I don't have to think."

Model Shown: WTG9532VH

LG
Life's Good

DESIGN MOMENT

ANGLEPOISE LAMP

A little tinkering with a spring led to the birth of a design 'miracle', writes Chris Pearson.

As a car designer, George Carwardine could often be found tinkering in his workshop. In 1932, seeking ways to improve vehicle suspension, the Brit devised a spring mechanism that could be flexed in any direction but would remain fixed when stationary. It was of no use in a car, so what could he use it for? The lightbulb moment came two years later: an articulated task lamp with pivoting arms. Ideal for assembling car parts, he thought.

Carwardine's lamp featured a sequence of counterbalanced springs near a weighted base, allowing the arms to be moved into and remain in any position. By combining this functionality with a concentrated beam, Carwardine had invented directional lighting.

Realising his Anglepoise had potential as a desk lamp for professionals, he licensed its manufacture to Herbert Terry & Sons, which released the 1208 commercial model in 1934. The next year, the company supplemented this with a domestic version, the 1227, with a stylish three-tier base. In 1938, Terry updated the 1227, introducing a two-tier base and a brighter bulb. This classic version remained in production for more than 30 years.

While wartime stymied domestic production, it also triggered demand, with battery-powered Anglepoises fitted to bombers. One such plane ditched in Loch Ness – and the lamp still worked when it was salvaged 40 years later.

Postwar, the Anglepoise went from strength to strength. In 1969, the Model 75, with a round base and trumpet shade, replaced the 1227. This in turn was updated in 1989 by the Apex 90 series.

In 1996, leading UK designer Sir Kenneth Grange named the Anglepoise his favourite object, calling it "a minor miracle of balance". Among British icons, it rubs shoulders with the Mini, red double-decker buses and Concorde.



WHAT IT MEANS TO US

Thanks to its knack of bending with the times, this classic shines on. In 2003, Anglepoise hired Sir Grange to revitalise its range. He introduced the Type 75, with a crisp, modern profile, and the handsome Type 1228 series, a tweaking of the 1227 and "the most fashion-forward design in our portfolio", says Anglepoise.

It might be an old-timer, but the brand eschews stuffiness. The Giant 1227 floor light, three times the size of the original lamp and in out-there colours, was added to the collection in 2006. In 2008, designer Anthony Dickens unveiled the Fifty, which features the profile of Carwardine's creation irreverently etched into moulded plastic. And last year, the company launched a jazzy Type 75 in fuchsia, lime and cornflower, by colourful UK fashion designer Sir Paul Smith.

"Anglepoise pioneered mechanical motion in lighting," says Richard Munao of Cult, the local supplier since 2007. "Supremely functional, it has remained relevant since the 1930s, yet the brand has also evolved, producing an iconic series of practical, balanced-arm task lamps, design classics that are woven into British society."

And elsewhere. "I have two Anglepoise Type 75 desk lamps at home as well as the Giant 1227," he says. "We have Type 75s on all the desks in the office too. The whole team loves them." **H&G**

Cult; (02) 9690 0077 or cultdesign.com.au.

Portrait, 1227, battery-powered and Type 75 lamp images, all courtesy of Anglepoise. Vintage Anglepoise 1209, about $497, and Model 75, about $312, are available from Mr Bigglesworthy; www.mrbigglesworthy.co.nz. Currency conversions currect at time of printing.

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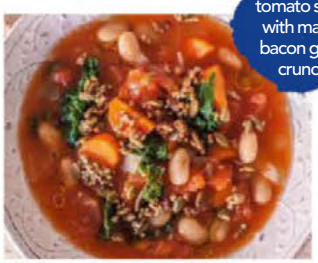
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PHOTO FINISH

Nine's *Reno Rumble* judges share some insights from behind the scenes – naming the details that take a room from ho-hum to woo-hoo.

Finishing a room to the point where it's polished and perfect can take time. That final piece of furniture or special accessory may not present itself immediately and so you wait, knowing it's out there. Spare a thought, then, for the teams on Channel Nine's *Reno Rumble*, given just days to refurbish entire houses. "The calibre of the rooms they produced was seriously high," says judge Darren Palmer. We asked Darren and fellow judge Romy Alwill for their thoughts on our favourite room overhauls.

DINE WITH ME

'I helped choose this La Chance Climb shelving system from Living Edge. I think it was a perfect fit with the mid-century modern brief that Ben and Jemma were given and met so beautifully. It's an elegant, sculptural piece that doesn't weigh down the space.' ***Romy Alwill***

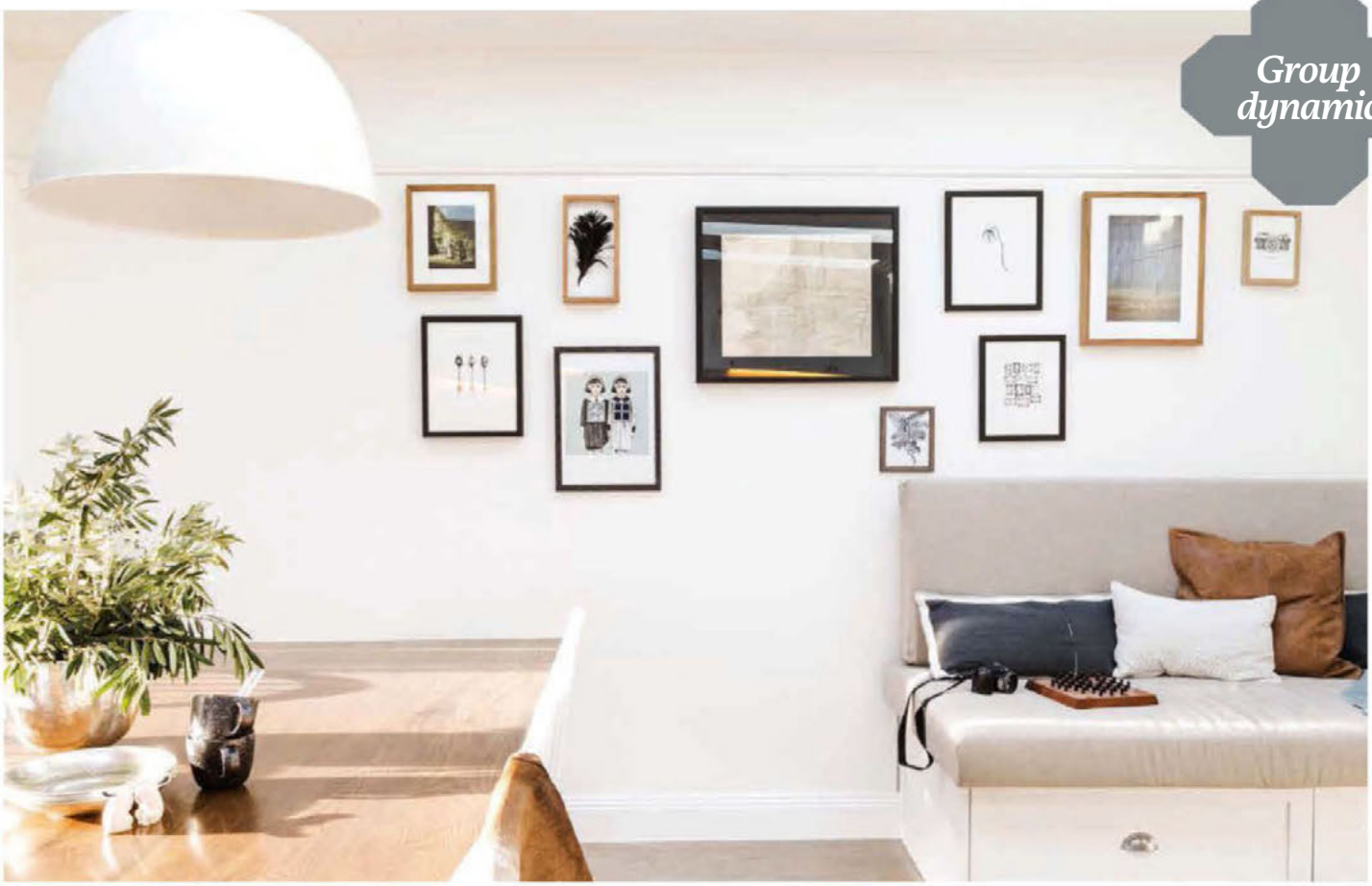




Mid-century marvel

Takahashi 167 dining table and Transit stackable dining chairs, Curious Grace.
La Chance Climb shelving system, Living Edge.

Photography from Channel Nine. For Where to Buy, see page 188.



Group dynamic



Teenage tour de force

LIVING ROOM LESSONS

'Grouping artworks is a great way to create impact on a large wall. This arrangement in the Blue Tongues living room in Kingsville adds layers of character and whimsy. Grouped artworks look best when they're not hung too symmetrically.' *Romy Alwill*

TEEN SCENE

'I loved the way Kyal and Kara tackled this teen's bedroom for the Redbacks at Yarraville. It's a small room so it was a great idea to elevate the Erik Hansen Le Klint Scissor light off the bedside table. The bed is also raised, providing good storage beneath.' *Darren Palmer* H&G


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TOP LEFT INDUSTRIAL MATTE **PENDANT** CELADON, $179.95.

TOP RIGHT MERCURY FRAMED **PRINT** TAUPE, $339.95. JACK **STOOL** MINT, $219.95.

BOTTOM LEFT MARBLE **SOAP DISH** WHITE, $29.95; MARBLE **CANISTER**, $44.95. SENSES 120ML VANILLA GLASS **DIFFUSER**, $16.95; SENSES 120ML ORCHID GLASS **DIFFUSER**, $16.95. SENSES AROMA ORCHID **CANDLE**, $14.95; COCONUT **CANDLE**, $14.95; **ROOM SPRAY** BLACKBERRY, $14.95; **ROOM SPRAY** ORCHID, $14.95.

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NAPIER **DINING CHAIR**, $319.
OPPOSITE PAGE HOMEWARES
METEOR **TERRARIUM** LARGE, $54.95. COPPER **TUMBLER**, $39.95.
BLACK EDGE WIDE **FRAME**, $21.95.
MOOD MARBLE **TABLE LAMP** ROSE GOLD, $99.95.
HEXAGON **TRAYS**, $159.95 SET OF 2.
ZONE METAL **CLOCK** GOLD, $99.95. PIPE **TRAY**, $129.

TOP LEFT GEN **VASE** SHORT, $34.95. ANUBIS **VASE** BLACK, $54.95.
FIRA BOTTLE **VASE** BLACK, $34.95. ZONE WALL **CLOCK**, $179.95.

TOP RIGHT RUBY **COTTON BOX** LARGE RED, $24.95;
TUMBLER IN RED, $17.95; **SOAP DISPENSER** IN RED, $24.95.

BOTTOM LEFT ABI BRASS **PENDANT** LIGHT, $159.

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A5 **STORAGE BOX**, $22.95; **MAGAZINE HOLDER**, $24.95;
D-RING **FOLDER**, $17.95. SAFFY **TABLE LAMP** IN WHITE, $169.
WIDE **FRAME** WITH BLACK EDGE HAPPY, $14.95.
TRENFIELD COPPER CLEAR **CLOCHE** SMALL, $59.95; LARGE, $84.95.
MERCURY FRAMED **PRINT** DEEP BLUE, $339.95.

TOP LEFT HEX **PENDANT** LIGHT GOLD LARGE, $239.95.

TOP RIGHT ROBERT GORDON COPPER **TEA FOR TWO** SET, $49.95.
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BOTTOM LEFT ROBERT GORDON COPPER IN/OUT **TRAY**, $29.95.
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Liew built her house with a vision to create an honest, energy efficient and practical home inspired with character provided by the natural materials used. It accommodates a double-storey dwelling with a formal living, library, cellar, study, laundry, three bedrooms, three bathrooms and a three car garage.

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All rooms are provided with views of the garden, fishpond framed by antique Chinese screen doors and courtyard.

Architect Jessica Liew is recognised for her award winning designs, but she is also renowned for her ability to deliver designs that incorporate a high standard of ecological sustainability.

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72 WA
A space-aware new build in Perth is a downsizer's delight.

80 NSW
A family revels in the details of this Tardis-like home, built for savvy city living.

96 NSW
A luscious plant-filled courtyard is the focus of this flexible Sydney home.

88 VICTORIA
A modest shed was the starting point for an inspired and affordable Victorian bush retreat.

104 VICTORIA
A smartly turned out Melbourne apartment with a generous balcony and treetop views is an entertainer's dream.







40 pages of feelgood homes packed with ideas for living better





HOUSES

RETHINKING SPACE



DINING/LIVING / Poppy the poodle on security duty. Marri ceiling timbers were cut from the owners' property near Margaret River. The table was once a baker's kneading surface. Tablecloth and throws, Pure Linen. Sofas covered in Joonas fabric, Marimekko. Artwork above fireplace by Arthur Boyd.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



PERFECT *proportions*

An empty-nester architect celebrates the up side of downsizing in this brilliantly adaptable Perth home.

STORY & STYLING **ANNA FLANDERS** / PHOTOGRAPHY **ANGELITA BONETTI**



Ariane Prevost took just 15 minutes to decide to buy the block now occupied by her small, yet paradoxically sprawling, home. At only 395m² in area, with a 1970s townhouse sitting on it, the property was not what she had in mind when looking for her next home. However, as an architect and developer whose three adult children had left the nest, Ariane saw that this block, in a riverside suburb of Perth, could present the perfect downsizing opportunity for herself and her husband Neil. "I saw the site's beauty and the freedom it could afford us, so the idea of downsizing and becoming empty-nesters became easier," she says.

The modernist-style house she has created is neatly ensconced between neighbouring homes. Its front courtyard is shielded by a whimsical screen in weathered, reclaimed junkyard steel. And, as in Ariane's previous home (*H&G* November 2012), the main entrance is positioned in the middle of the property, accessed via a side path. Once through an oversized, pivoting front door, the internal courtyard lies directly ahead, with private zones – two bedrooms, a study and two bathrooms – to the right. To the left, the rear of the house is given over to an open-plan living, dining and kitchen area. Outside, on the timber deck, an external spiral staircase provides access to a self-contained rooftop studio.

Ariane doesn't define this as a fixed two-bedroom, two-bathroom home with studio, however. It is a far more fluid proposition. "The walls and floors are continuous but all the walls were put in as semi-permanent structures so I can adapt the space when I want to," she says.

'Brick floors are warm, quiet and rugged, provide thermal mass and are low maintenance. They are also really beautiful.'

Ariane Prevost

KITCHEN / **opposite and above** Ariane, seen coming down the staircase from the rooftop, designed sleek cabinetry with cut-out handles and a moveable island bench. Cabinetry by Franke Cabinets in Laminex Compact Laminates in Baye, Fossil and Parchment. Caroma mixer tap, Tuck Plumbing Fixtures. Yellow pot, Ottoman Empire. Striped rug, Ikea. Artwork over dining table by Russell Morrison.
Smart buy: Georgian bricks (on floor) in Granite Sett, $472/set of 384, Midland Brick.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



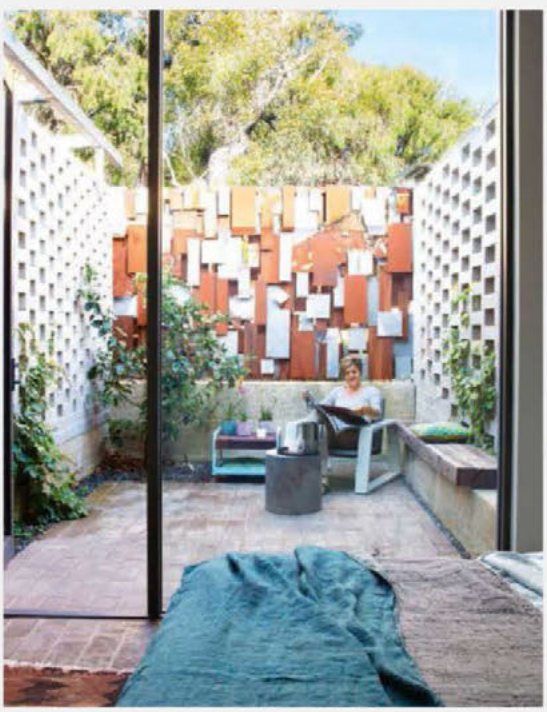
This is the life

"Because I had lived in a house where the outdoor area (420m²) was greater than my total house now, I've maximised my space. That meant integrating indoors and out," says Ariane. Their adult children get to sleep in the rooftop studio when they visit, while dogs Poppy and Frida, plus Skipperdee the aristocratic lilac Burmese, all enjoy the run of a pet-friendly sunny rear garden.

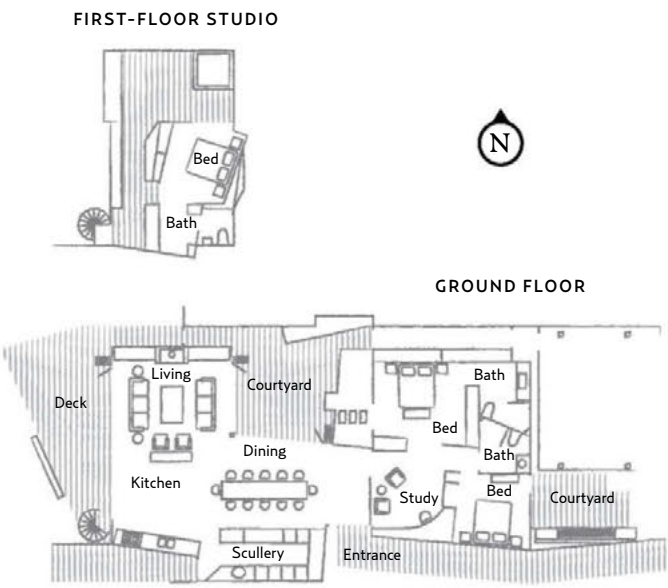
'I was ready to shed the shackles of too many material things. Now I only have things that mean something to me.' *Ariane*



◀ **MAIN ENSUITE /** Penny-round mosaics and large-format tiles play with notions of size and scale. Tiles, Original Ceramics. Caroma shower, Tuck Plumbing Fixtures.
FRONT COURTYARD / Ariane cut the steel panels for the industrial screen herself. Outdoor seat and trolley, Samuel Wright Design. Stool, Benara Nurseries. Cushion, Ikea.
MAIN BEDROOM / The yellow storage ottoman at the end of the bed holds christening gowns and other family keepsakes. Bedlinen, Pure Linen. Cushion (on ottoman), Ottoman Empire. Bedside table, Ikea. Artwork by Nina Battley.
Designer buy: Irma linen throw in Brown Honey Comb, $399, Pure Linen. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. ▶



THE LAYOUT



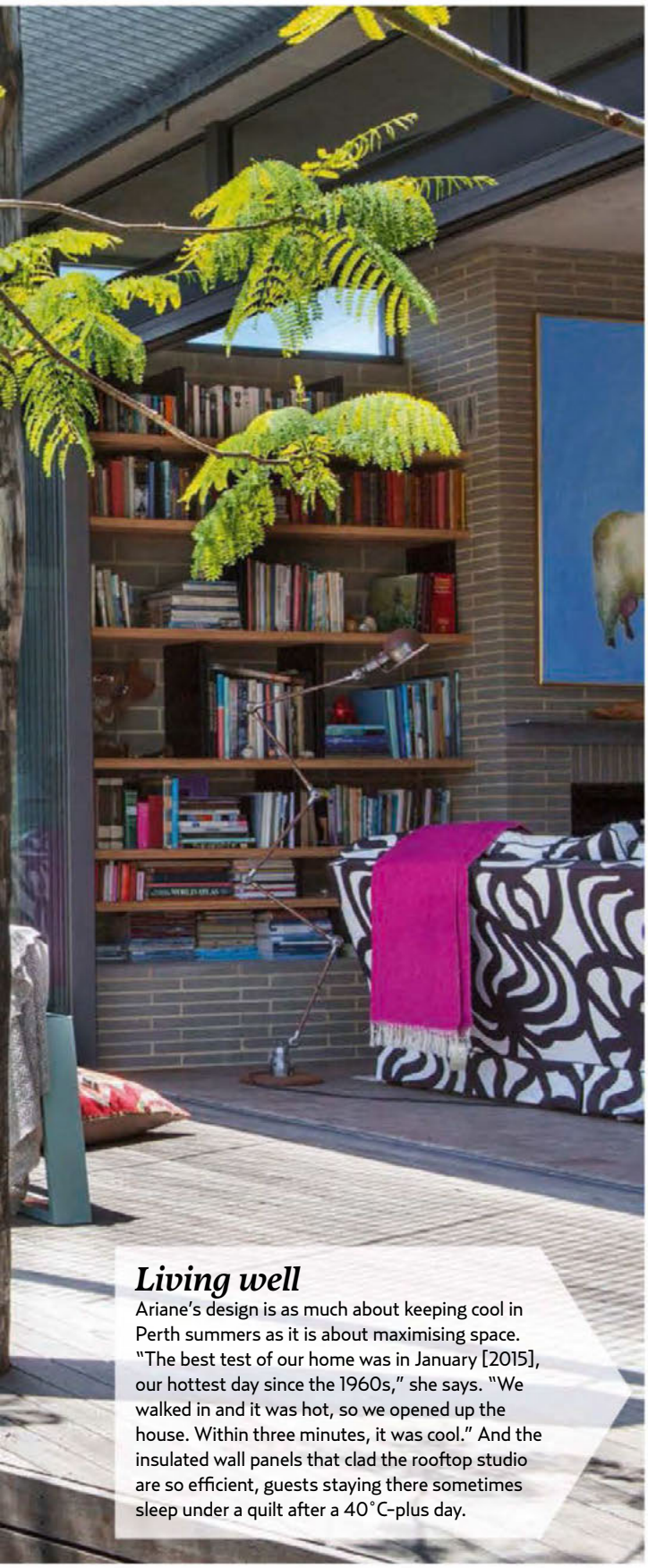
Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.


THE PALETTE
Dulux Walnut Hull
main bedroom
Dulux Ferrodor Mid Grey
steel beams
Dulux Surfmist
kitchen bulkhead



FEATURE PLANTS

INTERNAL COURTYARD
Variegated peppermint tree (*Agonis fexuosa variegata*)
ROOFTOP
Pussy willow (*Salix*)
DECK
Potted chillies



Living well

Ariane's design is as much about keeping cool in Perth summers as it is about maximising space. "The best test of our home was in January [2015], our hottest day since the 1960s," she says. "We walked in and it was hot, so we opened up the house. Within three minutes, it was cool." And the insulated wall panels that clad the rooftop studio are so efficient, guests staying there sometimes sleep under a quilt after a 40°C-plus day.

◀ "I am into 'beauty comes in small packages'," says Ariane. "I was ready to shed the shackles of too many material things. Now I only have things that mean something to me."

This home's footprint may be small but Ariane's design, with its cleverly intertwined indoor and outside spaces, makes it seem much larger. The main bedroom and ensuite connect to the central courtyard and the guestroom opens to the front courtyard. The study looks out to a wall covered in Boston ivy, while at the rear of the house there's a deep deck and a garden shaded by poplars. Full-height glass bifold doors along the dining area wall, the living area and almost the entire rear of the home can all be opened and closed as the couple desires.

Topping it all off is the arresting structure of the studio, its origami-like folds spray-painted in a custom shade that matches the zingy yellow of a Meyer lemon. Hundreds of timber lengths laid over the exterior will grey with age to complement the yellow underneath.

Inside, the same bright shade frequently pops up, from the castors on the kitchen bench to an upholstered ottoman. It's an unexpected turn of the colour wheel for Ariane, for whom natural and burnt colours had previously been a signature. She says it was inspired by the high-visibility vest she wore on site during the build, but the colour could equally indicate the sunny mood that this house induces in its occupants.

"Every day when I wake up, no matter the season or time of day, my house has on its happy face," says Ariane. "It just feels good." **H&G**

DECK / Timber decking is unfinished jarrah and the posts are pylons reclaimed from an old jetty. Chairs, Samuel Wright Design. Cushion (on chair), Remedy. Green pot and floor cushion, Ottoman Empire. Bifolds, Supreme Windows. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

To see photos of Ariane's first-floor studio, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.





LANDING / Five-year-old Cameron hits new heights. Warm-toned plywood cladding on the first floor has a wonderful cocooning effect. Artwork by Jan Brychta.
Smart buy: The Metric height chart, from about $68, Kim's Sister.
ENTRANCE / Bikes, the preferred mode of transport for this urban family, are stored in a locker inspired by Japanese bicycle garages. Spotted-gum cladding. Garden design by City Garden Wise.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

FEATURE PLANTS

BALCONY
Mandevilla
'Alice du Pont'
CENTRAL LIGHTWELL
Japanese maple
(*Acer palmatum*)

A whole new SPIN

This cleverly conceived new build in Sydney invites views and admiration at every turn.

STORY **ALAANA COBON** / STYLING **LOUISE BICKLE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**



Not many people are lucky enough to find a vacant block on the fringe of the Sydney CBD, let alone one with approved house plans drawn up by architects who'd designed the home for themselves. This was the fortunate situation that Tamara and Paul Robinson found themselves in when hunting for a home for their family in 2012.

The wheels were set in motion when Tamara dropped in to visit a friend who lived nearby and admired her recently completed renovation. It turned out that project had been designed by architects Joel Farnan and Michelle Findlay, who had lived in the area for years. "My friend mentioned that Michelle and Joel's block of land was available and that the plans were amazing," says Tamara. "She introduced us to Joel, who took us through the designs. We were instantly hooked."

After buying the property and launching into a 14-month construction project, with email support from Joel and Michelle, who'd moved interstate, the couple and their five-year-old daughter Cameron are now reaping the rewards of a thoughtful and beautifully executed design concept.

At street level, the contemporary facade of the house is nonetheless respectful of the aesthetic and scale of the surrounding heritage terraces. Step inside and the glow is uplifting. Two lightwells allow natural light to permeate all three storeys. The design, described as 'kaleidoscopic' by the architects, creates a real sense of openness and connection between rooms and levels. "You catch different views as you move through the house," says Tamara.

'From the street the house reads as a modest cottage. It's not until you're inside that you realise it spans three levels.'
Michelle Findlay, architect

LIVING / **above and opposite** The family does without a TV, preferring to project movies onto the expansive living room wall above the floating bookshelf. A study nook makes efficient use of space under the stairs. Sofa, Jardan. Armchair, Artifort. Fireplace, Jetmaster. Floor lamp, Aero Designs, with shade in Nina Campbell Cawdor stripe, No Chintz. Platters, Collector Store. Flowers, Mr Cook. Artworks by Emily Besser. **Designer buy:** Dinosaur Designs Jewel hand-tufted rug, $4950/2x3m, Designer Rugs. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

This is the life

"This place makes us smile every time we walk in," says Tamara. And it seems that everyone who spends time here agrees. "Our friends have been by our side throughout the building process, so they know the house inside and out. Without exception they love it and feel the design really suits us." Five-year-old Cameron is equally rapt. "She's turned one of the storage areas in her room into a little cubbyhouse," says her mother.



THE PALETTE

Dulux Natural White
living, bedroom, exterior

American oak
kitchen

Add a dash of

Porter's Paints Breakwater





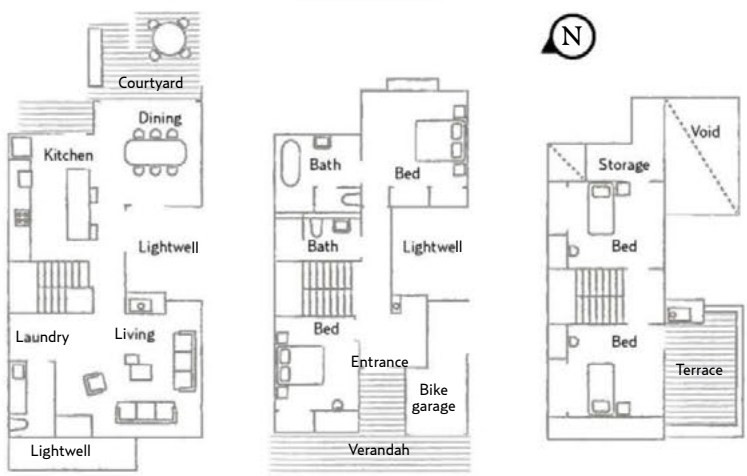


To see more of this beautiful home, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.

KITCHEN / **right and opposite** Tamara and Cameron hang out on custom-made stools. This generous space fuses beauty and practicality with storage that reaches to the ceiling. Joinery by Ital Furniture. Fridge, Fisher & Paykel. Chopping board, Collector Store. Pendant light, Pierre and Charlotte.
GUESTROOM / The raked ceiling creates an intimate atmosphere, while a large picture window reinforces the connection to the outdoors. A pull-down bed allows this room to be used in other ways when the owners don't have family or friends visiting. Cushion, Kas Australia. Rug, Ikea.
Smart buy: Nud Classic pendant light, $69, Great Dane.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

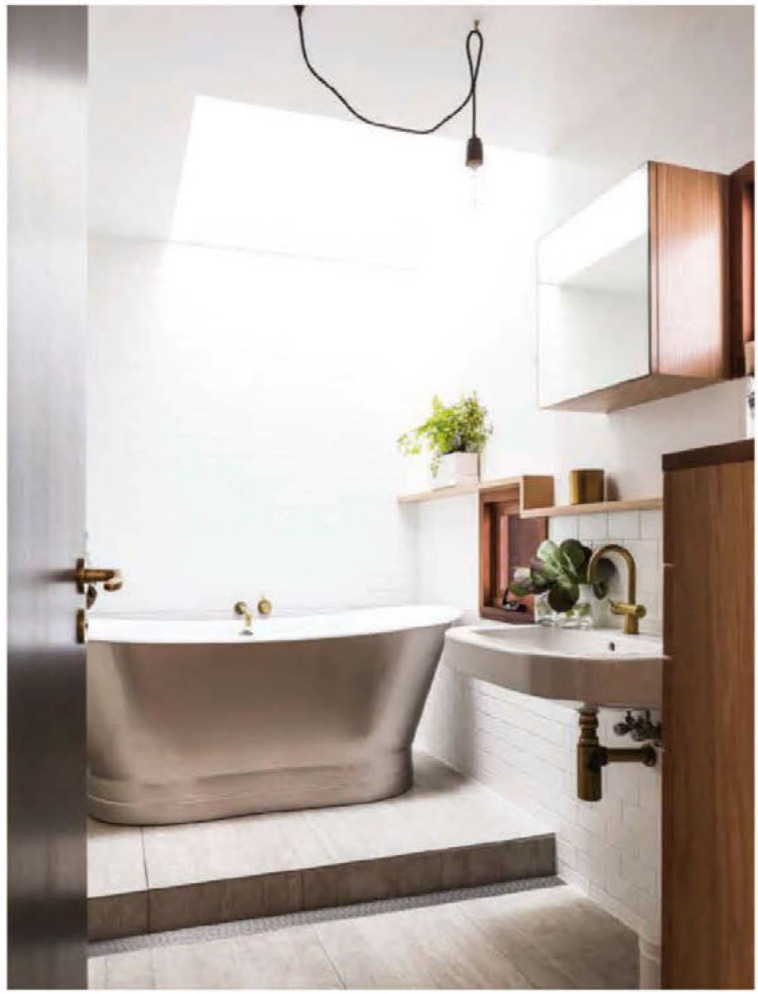


THE LAYOUT



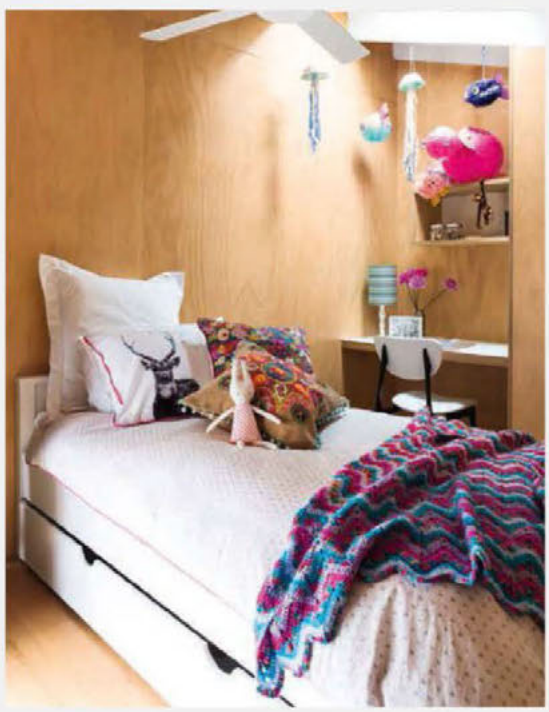
LOWER GROUND | GROUND FLOOR | FIRST FLOOR

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



'Our luxurious ensuite has the world's most gorgeous bathtub.'
Tamara Robinson

ENSUITE / A skylight illuminates the space and a raised platform makes a star of the tub. Bath, Renaissance Kitchens & Bathrooms. Tapware, Sussex Taps. Floor tiles, Di Lorenzo Tiles.
CAMERON'S ROOM / Cameron says the wall cladding makes her room feel special. Bedlinen, Adairs. Multi-coloured cushions, toy rabbit and lamp, No Chintz.
MAIN BEDROOM / Cabinetry in American oak satisfies one of the owners' must-have criteria: plenty of wardrobe space. Feature cushions and throw, No Chintz. Wall light, Pierre and Charlotte. Flowers by Mr Cook. Artwork by Emily Besser.
Designer buy: Rigby bedside table, $400, Milkcart.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



◀ Voids, skylights and well-positioned windows afford almost every room a framed view. On the ground floor, two bedrooms and two bathrooms are arranged around the central lightwell. Upstairs are Cameron's bedroom and a guestroom. On the lower ground floor, the architects turned the sloping site to their advantage, so the kitchen and dining areas flow into a low-maintenance courtyard.

Inside, there's a place for everything. A custom-made, oversize pegboard in the kitchen displays family ephemera and Cameron's latest drawings. A large opening in the adjacent wall offers a display surface as well as a direct visual connection to the dining zone. "High on our wish list was a dining room that we and our friends would want to spend time in," says Tamara. "This house delivers beautifully on that."

Although new, the house is well integrated into its community, as the owners deliberately sought local expertise for the build. "We used local contractors and suppliers whenever possible, as we think it's important to support the community," says Tamara.

The results are outstanding, and the flexible design allows everyone in the family to have their own space, now and in the future. "We've put so much into this house, we can't imagine ever leaving it." **H&G**

Architects: Farnan Findlay Architects, Torquay, Victoria; 0420 308 051 or www.farnanfindlay.com.au. Builder: Nicholas Stemi Constructions, Kingsford, NSW; 0417 205 375.

Living well

The major design features of this 207m² home are so enchanting, it's easy to overlook its many hidden gems and thoughtful inclusions. For example, there's a spot to sort mail right by the front door. In the kitchen, there's a drying rack behind doors over the sink where dishes can drain out of sight, leaving the benchtop clear. Storage is tucked everywhere possible, including an underfloor space in the entry and in the eaves upstairs.





The silvery foliage and cloud-like flowers of licorice plant (*Helichrysum petiolare*). **OPPOSITE /** The house, in essence a customised shed, is in tune with its surroundings. Shed, Totalspan. The garden infrastructure was built by Ballarat Regional Industries. Owner Pierina Dalle Nogare did the planting herself. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

By shedding preconceptions about prefab structures, a homeowner on a tight budget in country Victoria achieved the retreat of her dreams.

STORY **STEPHEN CRAFTI** / STYLING **HEATHER NETTE KING** / PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON GRIFFITHS**





This simple steel house nestled into bushland near Daylesford, about one-and-a-half hours' drive north-west of Melbourne, almost didn't eventuate. Owner Pierina Dalle Nogare had settled on a design with architect Joe Toscano, director of DP_Toscano Architects, when newly introduced bushfire regulations threatened to hijack the project. "I was at my wits' end. I was told that building a house here – in a bushfire zone surrounded by Crown land – would be problematic," says Pierina, who shares the house with her partner Joseph Buttazzoni and their poodle-schnauzer cross, Essa.

Pierina, who designs fashion accessories under the label Redivivo, bought the property in March 2010, envisaging that she would spend three to four days a week in her bush retreat, working away in her studio. The remainder of the week would be spent in her inner-city Melbourne apartment. Instead, she spent the next 18 months negotiating with authorities and local bureaucrats. "The consent came down to removing just a couple of trees," says Pierina. The trunks of those trees are stacked to one side of the site as a reminder of the lengths she had to go to in order to achieve her dream.

"My brief to Joe was fairly simple," says Pierina. "I wanted a low-maintenance house where the materials are expressed. My main criteria was that I was able to see the landscape from every part of the house, blurring the division between indoors and out."

"The budget was relatively modest so I knew we would have to look at cost-effective ways to fulfil the brief," says Joe, whose solution was to take a standard farm shed and remodel it to suit Pierina's needs. ▶

'I didn't want a suburban house in the bush. This home is about the experience of being in the bush and seeing wildlife on the doorstep.'

Pierina Dalle Nogare

ABOVE / The open-plan kitchen/dining/living area offers expansive views to the east and west. Philippe Starck for Kartell Hi-Glob stools, Space. Dining table, Mark Tuckey. Dining chairs, Stylecraft. Ceiling lights, Mondo Luce. Replica Eero Aarnio Half Dome chairs, Matt Blatt. Cheminees Philippe combustion stove, Wignells of Melbourne.
OPPOSITE / Pierina, Joseph and Essa. They have owned the sofa and rug for many years. Stool, Southwood. The artwork is a vintage poster by Boris Bucan. The plywood ceiling is stained in Quantum Aquastain.
Designer buy: Globo 80cm sphere light, $680, Slide Productions. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



This is the life

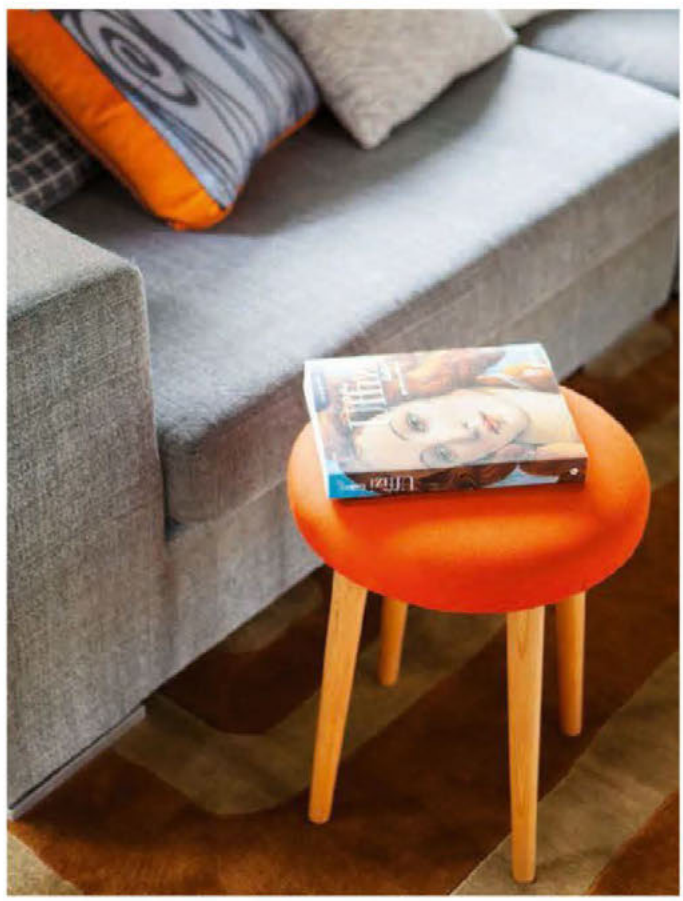
Part of the plan for this home was to provide a peaceful workspace for Pierina and Joseph, who restores old telephones. The studio, situated a short walk from the house down a meandering garden path, is everything they had dreamed of. "Although the path linking studio and home is crossed several times a day, having that separation allows for concentration when the tools are out," says Pierina.





'The budget was relatively modest so I knew we would have to look at cost-effective ways to fulfil the brief.' ***Joe Toscano, architect***







"This way, the building costs would be significantly reduced and the house could be up within three weeks."

The front and rear walls of the two-bedroom house are made from corrugated steel, with floor-to-ceiling windows cut into them to reveal views of the nearby gully. The side walls are made from translucent polycarbonate, with two layers of steel webbing hung externally for decoration. Pierina says the polycarbonate walls were a stroke of genius: "I love how light it is and the silhouettes of the gum trees continually animate the interiors".

In the main bedroom, the plywood bedhead doubles as a wall of joinery for the dressing room behind, while in the main bedroom's ensuite, Pierina's request for 'views from every angle' was accommodated literally. "I asked Pierina to sit in the bath to check the layout before the plumbing was fixed," says Joe, who placed the bath on an angle in order to capture the views.

While the design appears relatively simple, it's a lesson that less is considerably more. Subtle decorative elements lift the building above its industrial origins: a skylight at the entrance creates a magical glow upon arrival, stained plywood lines the ceiling and the concrete flooring is beautifully polished. Details that make the house a home.

"I didn't want a suburban house in the bush. This home is about the experience of being in the bush and seeing wildlife on the doorstep," says Pierina.

DP_Toscano Architects, Collingwood, Victoria; (03) 9419 8366 or www.dptoscanoarchitects.com.

ABOVE / Thanks to the polycarbonate wall, the main bedroom is bathed in soft natural light. Behind the bedhead wall is a dressing room and ensuite. Wall light, Mondo Luce. The floor lamp is a vintage Italian stage light.
OPPOSITE / clockwise from top left The flame-coloured flowers of swamp bottlebrush (*Beaufortia sparsa*) make a striking centrepiece. Industrial objects, transformed into functional homewares, are dotted around the house. Stool and orange-trimmed cushion, Southwood. Treasured photos and Pierina's handiwork on display in the hall.
Designer buy: Flow upholstered stool, $495, Southwood. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

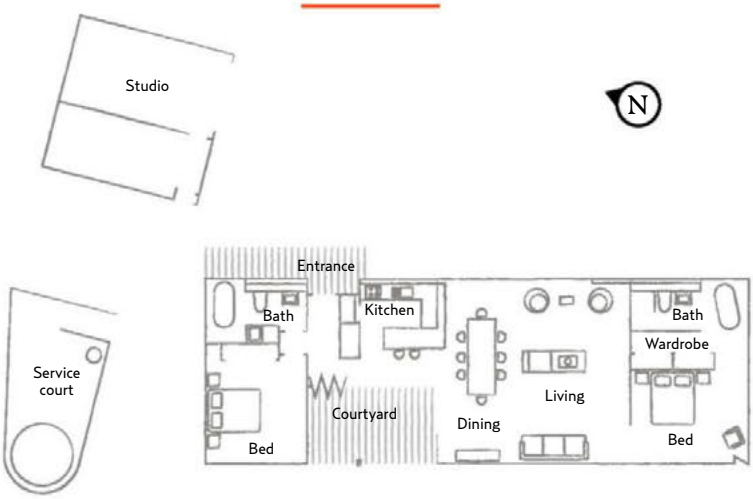


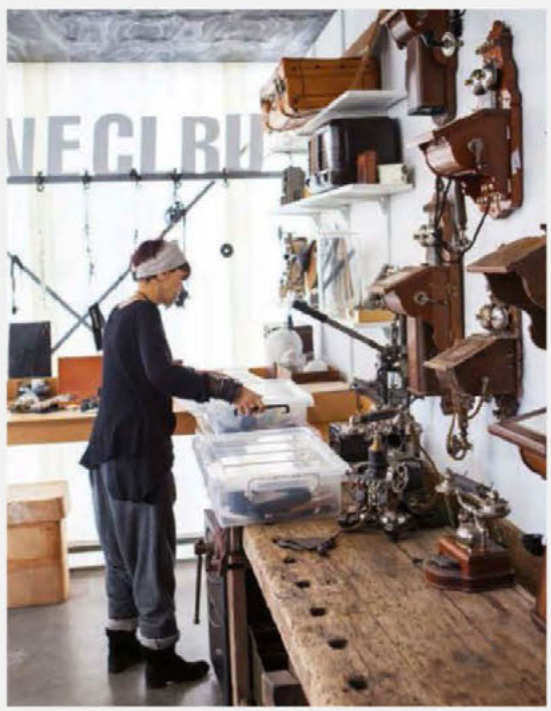
Living well

This home is designed to sit lightly in the environment. "If you walk down the hill, you're not aware the house even exists. It's not until you come to the end of the drive that the house becomes visible," says Pierina. "The structural elements adapt to the topography so as to minimise excavation," adds architect Joe Toscano. Boosting the home's green credentials are solar panels and rainwater tanks, and recycled materials were used wherever possible.

LEFT / The bath's angled position in the corner of the main ensuite enables the bather to enjoy views through the bedroom's windows. Bath, Bourne Bathroom & Kitchen Centre. Stool, The Orient Express. Wall and floor tiles, Classic Ceramics. Vintage ladder.
BELOW / Detached from the house, Pierina's studio has all the space and peace she needs.
OPPOSITE / Sheltered between the living room and second bedroom, the west-facing courtyard is a favourite spot to sit and enjoy the sunset. Acapulco chairs, Acapulco Chair. Cast-iron chiminea from Daylesford Sunday Markets.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. H&G

THE LAYOUT





Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



THE PALETTE

Dulux Monument
exterior

Dulux Lexicon
interior walls

Add a dash of

Taubmans Racing Orange

'I wanted to see the landscape from every part of the house, blurring the lines between indoors and out.' Pierina

ENTRANCE / Owner Dianne Ramsay steps through the blackbutt-screened front door into the enclosed foyer of her sensitively renovated home. The front fence slides aside, enabling a car to be parked on the lawn – a bonus at weekends when parking is at a premium. Awnings from Attractive Window Fashions. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

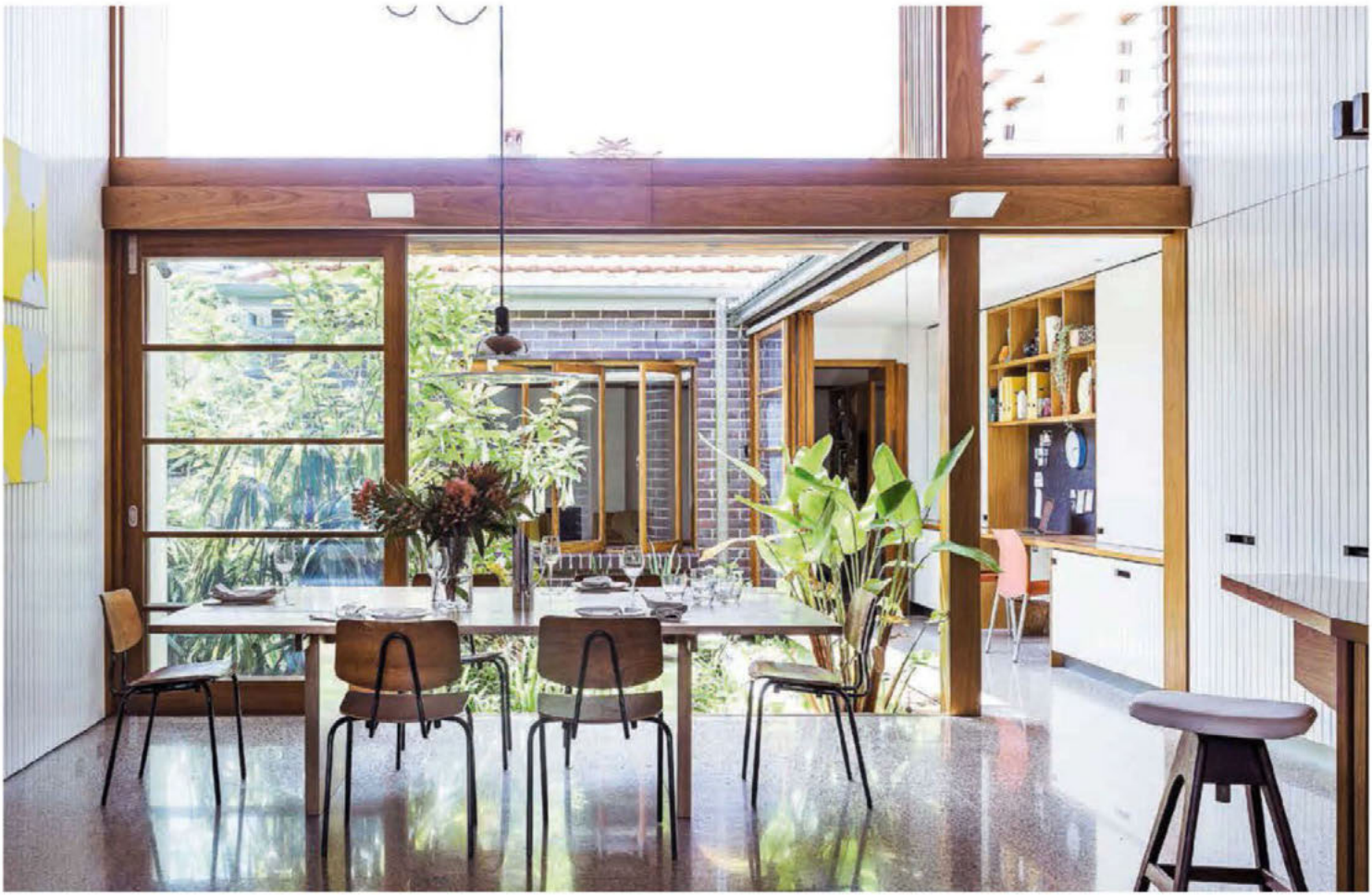




The simple life

Scaling down took on new meaning for this pair of empty-nesters in Sydney, who discovered that thinking small was the key to substantial gains.

STORY **RACHAEL BERNSTONE** / STYLING **KATE NIXON** / PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**



On the verge of becoming empty-nesters, David Lawson and Dianne Ramsay seized the opportunity to begin a new chapter in their lives. "Like so many people our age, we realised we were living in a house that was too big," says David. "Our choices were to spend all of our time cleaning or find something smaller."

David and Dianne, both former architects, have renovated several homes together over the years. Indeed, Dianne had sketched rough reno plans for this smaller abode, a 150m² three-bedroom 1940s house on Sydney's Lower North Shore, before seeking the input of local architect Matt Elkan.

The three workshopped the possibilities, eventually settling on a plan to demolish the third bedroom to create an internal courtyard and build two new pavilions at the rear. The front two bedrooms and formal living room – which features a coffered ceiling, leadlight windows and timber joinery – were retained, the character intact.

The two new pavilions, one housing an open-plan kitchen/dining/family room and the other, a self-contained studio, have sawtooth roof profiles that deliberately slope to the south to allow northern light into the main living spaces. "The roof profile allows light to come over the top of each pavilion and the floor is solid concrete, which has good thermal mass," says Matt. "We wanted the house to feel at one with the environment, with minimal heating and no artificial cooling."

This home is a model of efficiency in terms of layout as well. "The tiny block made us think small in our design," says Dianne. "Matt proposed flexible solutions, such as banquette seating in the living ▶

DINING / "The wide panels of glass and the floating roof are the main reasons the open-plan area feels so light," says David. The couple has owned the pendant light and dining table for 20-odd years. Vintage dining chairs, Vampt Vintage Design. Custom-made windows and doors.
Smart buy: Artworks in Marimekko Twisti fabric, from $325/each, Nordic Fusion.
KITCHEN / The ceiling is lined with shade cloth and acoustic insulation, then covered with blackbutt battens to tie it in with the battens elsewhere. The builder, Andrew Steward of ASB Constructions, custom made the pendant light to match the blackbutt island bench. Copper pipe was used to make a utensil rail. The rear benchtop is stainless steel. Tapware, Reece. Vintage TH Brown barstool, Vampt Vintage Design.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

This is the life

Dianne and David live an active lifestyle and their home's practical, indoor-outdoor design and beachside location allows them to enjoy it to the fullest. "Our home is not precious," says Dianne. "Our second bathroom [in the studio], for example, was designed for rinsing off after returning from the beach. It is also close to the laundry and clothesline so wet towels and bathers can be easily dealt with."



'This renovation was about doing more with less, a process of conscious restraint.' Matt Elkan, architect



'All of our spaces have more than one use.' *Dianne Ramsay*

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow. Flowers from Mandalay Flowers.



Living well

"The design process was a real test of all of our environmental ideals and how committed we were to applying them," says Matt. "The house is small and oriented correctly so it is easier and more economical to heat and cool," says Dianne. "The northerly orientation enables the house to be shaded in high summer as well as warmed by the low winter sun, and there are openings on all sides for good cross-ventilation."

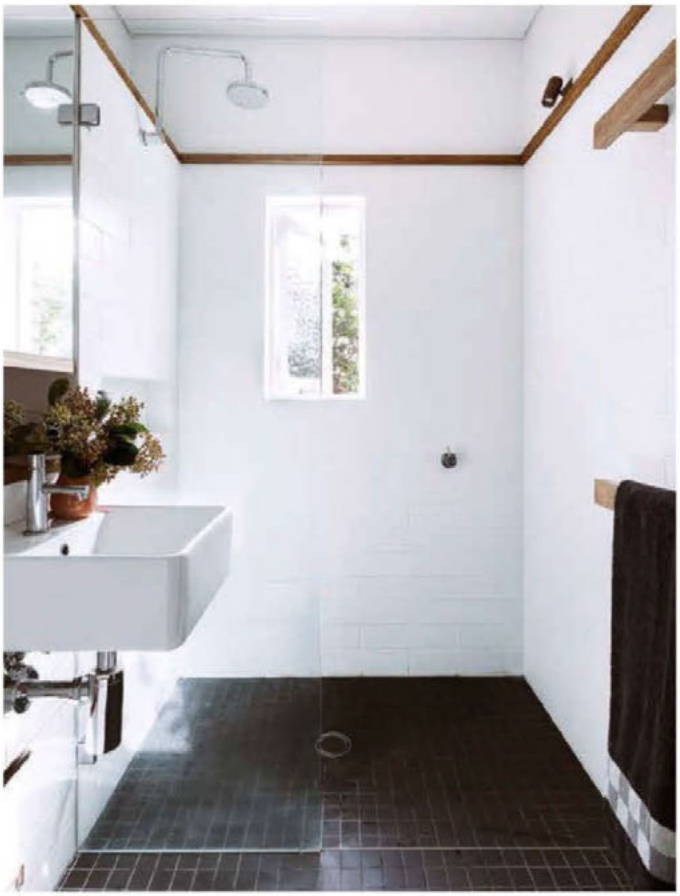
◀ areas and the studio in the backyard as an extra sleeping space." This flexibility means the couple's children, Jack and Joanna, both university students, can come and go with ease. And there's plenty of storage for everyone thanks to a ribbon of built-in joinery that runs the length of the home's eastern wall.

One of the best attributes, all agree, is the internal courtyard. Landscaped by Mark Paul from The Greenwall Company, it is an oasis of greenery rather than an outdoor room, designed to provide peaceful views from every angle. "We get as much pleasure from sitting inside and looking out as we would from being in the courtyard," says David.

Downsizing can be a big decision but Dianne and David couldn't be happier that they took the plunge. "Our house gives us peace of mind," says David. "In some ways, it's the next step up from 'glamping'. It's the combination of many factors – good planning, simple finishes, natty details – that creates a chilled and relaxed environment." ▶

Matt Elkan Architect, North Manly, NSW; (02) 8916 7357. ASB Constructions, Allambie Heights, NSW; (02) 9939 5944 or www.asbconstructions.com.au. The Greenwall Company, Newport Beach, NSW; (02) 9969 2682 or www.greenwall.com.au.

FORMAL LIVING / The banquette doubles as a spare bed and has storage for bedding beneath. Banquette cushion covered in Sunbrella Natte. Yellow and grey cushions, Nordic Fusion. Grey cushion and throw, Busatti. Vintage Ax chairs from Vampt Vintage Design. The nesting tables and log basket are family pieces. Existing floor lamp. Sisal rug, The Natural Floorcovering Centres. The artworks are framed semaphore flags. Southern blue gum-veneer joinery, Coastline Cabinets. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





'It's the combination of many factors – good planning, simple finishes, natty details – that creates a chilled and relaxed environment.' *David Lawson*



BATHROOM / Though compact, the bathroom is efficiently designed and sufficient for the couple's needs. There is a second bathroom in the studio and an outdoor shower for rinsing off after swims at the nearby beach. Wall and floor tiles, Academy Tiles. Basin, Candana Bathroomware. Showerhead and tapware, Reece.

MAIN BEDROOM / Downsize they did, but David and Dianne found room for their favourite furniture, including the bedside table, wicker chair and an inherited basket. The original cypress floor was limewashed. A semaphore flag was framed as an artwork. Cushions, bedspread and throw, Busatti. Flowers from Mandalay Flowers.

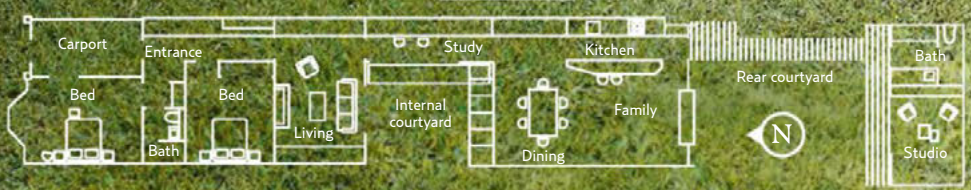
INTERNAL COURTYARD / "Most people would have paved the courtyard and put in a table, chairs and umbrella but we didn't want that," says David.

REAR COURTYARD / Located between the family room and the studio, the beautifully landscaped garden offers yet more verdant views. The pivoting windows are designed to allow optimum airflow. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188. **H&G**

FEATURE PLANTS

INTERNAL COURTYARD
***Heliconia angustifolia* 'Red Christmas'**
Begonia coccinea
Spiral ginger *Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*
FRONT YARD
Frangipani (*Plumeria rubra v. acutifolia*)
Strelitzia reginae

THE LAYOUT







LIVING / A potted fiddleleaf fig links this central space to the green bushland canopy outside. Armchair, Globe West. Cushion, Jennifer Button Agency. Floor lamp, Tub Design. Plant and pot, Meizai.
DINING / Reflective surfaces and a lighter palette have transformed a previously dark space. Table, Satara. Chairs, Globe West. Pendant light, About Space. Artwork, Boyd Blue.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

The height of

HOSPITALITY

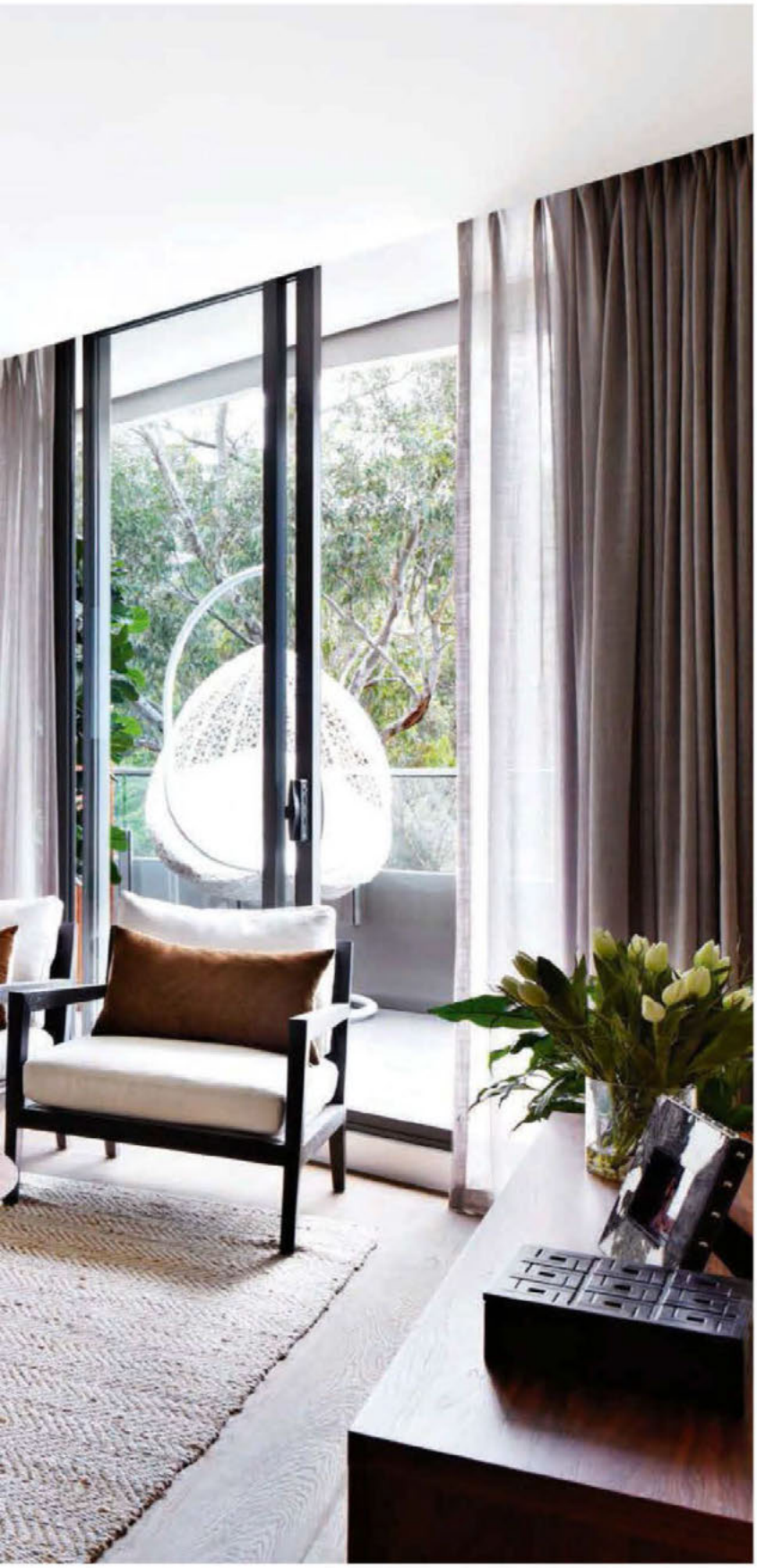
This revamped Melbourne apartment with lush treetop views offers the best of both worlds for an entertainer who appreciates privacy.

STORY **CHRIS PEARSON** / STYLING **JUDY OSTERGAARD** / PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB**

This is the life

Thoughtfully zoned and comfortably furnished, Amanda's apartment works as idyllic retreat and social hub. A large balcony facilitates parties while the peaceful location and nature-inspired decor create an ideal setting for 'me' time. "It doesn't feel like I'm only a couple of kilometres from the CBD," says Amanda. "It's so peaceful, right next to the Yarra bushlands." Just outside is a riverside cycling path where she walks four-legged pal Charlie.





With a direct outlook to the canopy of bushland fringing the Yarra River, living in this Melbourne apartment is akin to being in a treehouse. For owner Amanda Michael, this urban eyrie in an inner-eastern suburb is a long way from the city studio where she used to live, which had barely enough room to swing a brolly.

Bringing the outside into her treetop home was a key part of her brief to interior designer Aaron Wong of Alexander Pollock Interiors. But while Amanda sought a calming sanctuary, she also wanted a home that could put on its make-up and best frock to entertain a crowd.

"Amanda wanted a space that reflected the native greenery of the view," says Aaron. "She wanted modern but also earthy and casual, a place where it would be easy to entertain." Something with a sophisticated vibe, adds Amanda, but also fun and vibrant for an owner in her 20s.

Aside from the view, the newly built property had many virtues when she first saw it in 2014. "It was near the CBD and I liked the layout, the balcony and walk-in wardrobe," she says. "It was so different from what I was used to."

But the layout did have its drawbacks, and Amanda worried about the relatively dark dining area. "I wondered how we were going to make it work," she says. Aaron came to the rescue with a light, airy palette and a sculptural pendant light with glass shades hung above a transparent tabletop.

Structurally, he left the apartment untouched, the only alteration being new timber flooring. Once inside the front door, the dining area is tucked behind a wall to the left, beside the kitchen. Service areas, including two bathrooms and the laundry, are located near the entrance at the southern end, leaving the leafy views to the living room ▶

LIVING / Amanda plays with Charlie, her Jack Russell/miniature fox terrier cross. Levine sofa, Equator Homewares. Twenty2 Eco wallpaper, The Selvedge Group. Coffee table, Globe West. Side table, table lamp and print cushions, MRD Home. European-oak flooring, Preference Floors. Artwork by Christine Peterson Nungala. **Smart buy:** La Grolla Fenton rug in White, from $399/3x2m, Freedom. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



◀ and the two bedrooms, which all front the north-facing and beautifully roomy balcony.

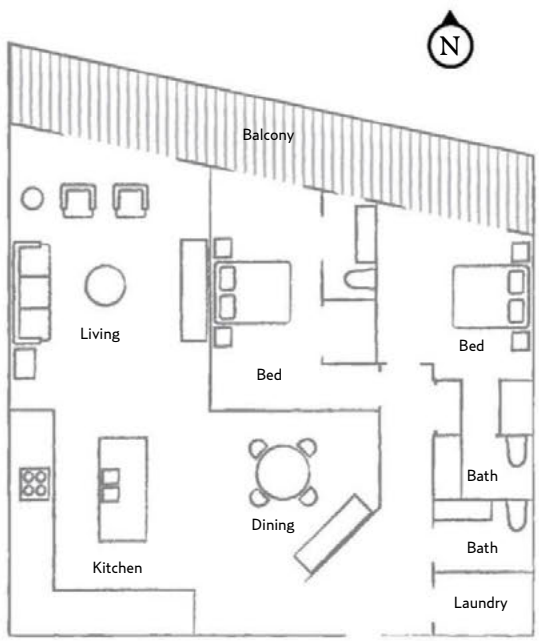
A priority for Aaron was to turn the apartment into an easy entertainer. "There's ample seating for guests. The dining table is close to the kitchen and a stylish setting for dinners," he says. The balcony is also unexpectedly large for a two-bedroom apartment, so he furnished that space as a chic outdoor living and entertaining area, complete with armchairs and a coffee table as well as a hanging chair.

Nature pervades this apartment, not just in the vista of the sky and bushland but in its tactile material choices – which include linen, grasscloth wallpaper, jute, leather and timber – and earthy colours. "The palette mirrors the views of the Yarra River and native flora," says Aaron.

Meanwhile, recurring chevron patterns and bold splashes of feature shades add the youthful pizazz that Amanda requested in her brief. These qualities are instantly apparent in her bedroom, which is Amanda's favourite space, not just because of the view but for its graphic wallpaper and adjustable pendant light, which doubles as a main and a reading light. "I wasn't sure about the wallpaper at first," says Amanda, "but Aaron said, 'Trust me, it will be great.' And it is – it looks amazing." ▶

Alexander Pollock Interiors, Abbotsford, Victoria; 0414 269 571 or www.alexanderpollock.com.

THE LAYOUT





BALCONY / The hanging chair is a prime chill-out spot for both Amanda and Charlie. Armchairs, Globe West. **Designer buy:** Simpson outdoor swing chair, $1299, Zanui.
KITCHEN / Fruit and flowers bring seasonal accents into the layout. Tapware, Grohe. Caesarstone benchtop in Snow. Replica Erik Buch stools, Matt Blatt.
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



'The palette mirrors the views of the Yarra River and native flora.'

Aaron Wong, interior designer



MAIN ENSUITE / Elegant, clean-lined functionality rules in the service areas. Shower and tapware, Grohe. Caesarstone vanity top in Snow. Towel, Bed Bath N' Table.
STUDY ALCOVE / A custom-built desktop makes efficient use of this corner. Lamp, Bloomingdales Lighting & Decorator Accessories. Chair, Globe West. Pinboard, Officeworks.
MAIN BEDROOM / Warm accents animate a neutral decor. Elitis After All wallpaper, Seneca Textiles. Adina chair, Tantra Imports. Tolomeo pendant light, Artemide. Yellow cushion and throw, Bed Bath N' Table. Curtains in Aesop sheer fabric and Carter blockout fabric, both from Warwick Fabrics.
Smart buy: Asha queen-size quilt cover set, $119, Designers Choice. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

THE PALETTE

Dulux White on White
interiors, throughout

Add a dash of

Twenty2 Sisal Grasscloth Wallpaper in Tonic

Resene Irish Coffee

Living well

Compact apartment living doesn't mean thinking small. This home packs a lot into its footprint, aided by a balcony running the length of the northern side and furnished as a second living space. The apartment's modest footprint also saves on energy consumption and bills. Warmed by the sun to the north, the living room and bedrooms snug in winter, and wide eaves keep summer sun at bay. **H&G**




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A crop of beautiful ideas from the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show

Photograph by Claire Takacs.

GARDENS

THE BEST OF CHELSEA / GREEN THUMB

MAKING A SPLASH

Water, in many forms, from dramatic cascades to the quiet beauty of still ponds, was the star of this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

TEXT BY **HELEN YOUNG** / PHOTOGRAPHY **CLAIRE TAKACS**



Charlie Albone's design, inspired by his late father, scored a medal for Australia. To see more of this and other prize-winning display gardens, turn the page.



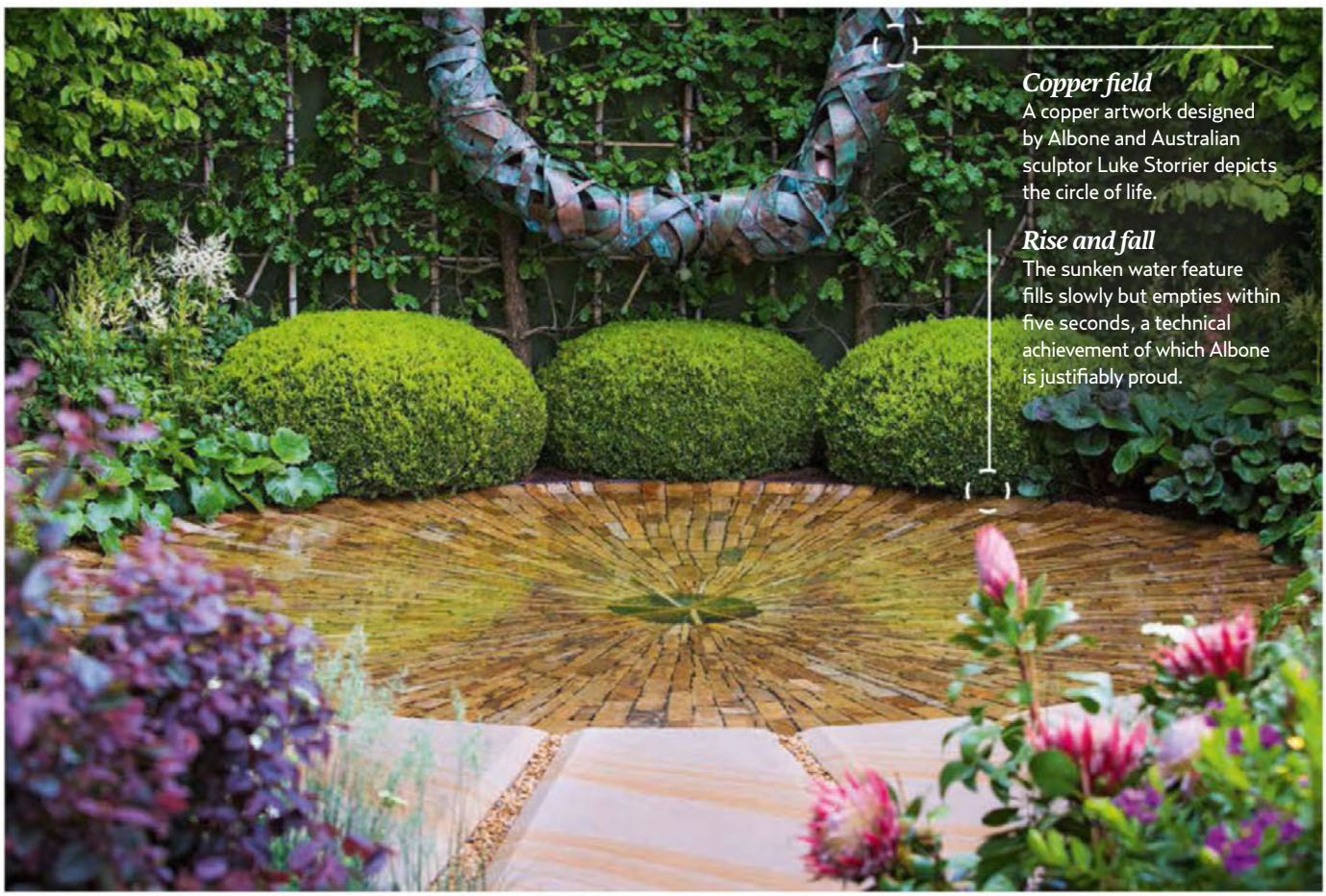
London's RHS Chelsea Flower Show is a showcase of the world's best, attracting sell-out crowds during five days in May each year. The biggest drawcards are always the stunning show gardens and this year the displays had an international flavour with gardens referencing Provence and southern Africa, as well as one dedicated to the beauty of Islamic culture and design. There was also an impressive Australian entry. What they had in common was a love of water, a feature that took many forms – cascades and water walls, rills and still pools, formal and informal – bringing movement, sound and reflections into the designs. The other key trend was an elegant restraint in materials, with most designers choosing just one or two mediums, often natural stone, to use in various ways throughout their gardens.





The Time In Between
Designer **Charlie Albone**
Sponsors **Husqvarna and Gardena**

Charlie Albone, NSW-based landscape designer and a presenter on Lifestyle Channel's *Selling Houses Australia*, created a very personal garden dedicated to his father, who passed away when the designer was 17. Keen to tell his father about his own life since, Albone created a story in three parts. In the first, a path meanders through romantic plantings, depicting how wonderful life can be. In the centre, a circular water feature fills slowly, only to empty in seconds, representing the fragility of life and a feeling of sudden loss. In the final section, an intimate sunken courtyard with a firepit represents Albone's wife, the flame and centre of his life. This area signifies the importance of connecting with loved ones, with hand-carved pillars representing important individuals in Albone's life. "It's a garden built out of happiness and good memories, despite the experience of losing my father," he says. "It's a place for celebration, reflection and connection." ▶



KEY PLANTS & MATERIALS

Lily magnolia
Magnolia liliiflora 'Nigra'
Persian ironwood
(*Parrotia persica*)
Japanese zelkova
(*Zelkova serrata*)
Soft tree fern
(*Dicksonia antarctica*)
Japanese snowball
(*Viburnum plicatum*)
Sweet pea shrubs
(*Polygala myrtifolia* 'Grandiflora')
Coastal rosemary
(*Westringia fruticosa*)
Sandstone
from Capricorn Sandstone, NSW (pillars and slabs), and northern England (firepit, drystone wall)

Aim high
Vertically stacked (from left) *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Philodendron* 'Xanadu' and *Rhapis excelsa* create lush texture between sandstone columns.

Variety show
The plants are an eclectic mix that Albone grows in his own garden on the NSW Central Coast, with varied textures and colours for year-round interest.

OPPOSITE / top left
Albone designed a wide path through the planted area, a place where he could imagine walking hand-in-hand with his father and his children.

Silver-gilt medal



Hope in Vulnerability
Designer **Matt Keightley**
Sponsor **Sentebale**

Celebrating the opening of the Mamohato Children's Centre in Lesotho, this vibrant show garden transported Chelsea visitors to southern Africa. It was created to raise awareness of the Sentebale charity, sponsored by Prince Harry and Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, which provides healthcare and education to children in Lesotho affected by poverty and HIV. The central building, constructed using traditional African materials and methods, represents the entrance to the centre. In front and behind it, the design evokes the wider landscapes of the nation. "As well as the dry, arid scrubland, there are pockets of running water in the higher altitude area of the Thaba-Bosiu mountain range, hence the inclusion of the waterfall and the cooler colour palette," says Keightley. The bright, colourful plantings represent the optimism of the children at the centre. "I wanted to achieve a welcoming feel, because that's the environment Sentebale is trying to create there."





LEFT / Women from Lesotho sang traditional songs at the launch of the display garden. Sentebale means 'forget me not' in Sesotho, one of the country's official languages.



KEY PLANTS & MATERIALS

Native Lesotho poppy
(*Papaver aculeatum*)
Cork oak
(*Quercus suber*)
Hawthorn
(*Crataegus* 'Prunifolia')
Desert spoon
(*Dasylirion wheeleri*)
Wallflowers
Erysimum 'Apricot Twist', and 'Fire King'
Agave
(*Agave filifera* var. *schidingera*)
Granny's bonnet
(*Aquilegia* 'Kristall')
Peeled sweet chestnut branches
(*Castanea sativa*)
Sandstone

Dance steps
Ribbons of colour dance through the beds, linking elements that reflect the cultural and natural richness of Lesotho. The path is imprinted with a child's footprints.

Silver-gilt medal

People's Choice award



A Perfumer's Garden in Grasse
Designer **James Basson**
Sponsor **L'Occitane**

The rich sights and scents of Grasse in south-eastern France, the historical centre of perfume-making, were captured in this evocative garden, which departed from the manicured perfection of a typical Chelsea display. Designed to recreate a rural scene from the fringes of Grasse, it depicts the subtly terraced fields where perfume ingredients would traditionally be grown on family allotments, as well as a *lavoir,* or communal laundry of old. Typical Provençal plants that play a key role in perfumery include iris, bergamot, lavender, thyme, fig and citrus, all of which are present here. "This is a very authentic garden," says Basson, who has a home in Grasse. "That's partly because of the tufa stone used for walls, steps and channels. And the plants are real because instead of being perfect, there's lots of dried and dead material, and faded flowers. Most of the wild plants in the understorey are natives that self-seed, or escapees like white-flowered caraway." ▶





Fine compagnie
This little piece of southern France was faithfully recreated for the French cosmetics company L'Occitane, which was founded in Provence.

ABOVE / The mixture of aromatic foliage and fragrant flowers creates a landscape of sensory delights.

Tree of life
Olive trees are synonymous with the Mediterranean. Their silvery bark works beautifully with the vivid hues of lavender and iris.



KEY PLANTS & MATERIALS

Olive
(*Olea europaea*)
Fig
(*Ficus carica*)
Corn poppy
(*Papaver rhoeas*)
French lavender
(*Lavandula stoechas*)
Thyme
(*Thymus vulgaris*)
Rosemary
(*Rosmarinus offinalis*)
Rose
(*Rosa* 'Yolande d'Aragon')
Orris
(*Iris pallida*)
Italian tufa stone

Hedge fund
Bay trees (*Laurus nobilis*), holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) and strawberry trees (*Arbutus unedo*), all typical Mediterranean evergreens, form the boundary hedge.

Gold medal



The Urban Retreat
Designer **Adam Frost**
Sponsor **Homebase**

Inspired by the Bauhaus design movement of the early-20th century and the work of Modernist architect Marcel Breuer, this beautifully proportioned garden was designed as a prototype gathering place for a small inner-city community. It also represents a state of balance between nature and the manmade environment in which people and wildlife can flourish. The layout has strong architectural form, with a backbone of linear concrete walls and geometric hedging. "It uses basic shapes, a series of rectangles and circles, and simple materials – just concrete, corten steel and cedar," says Frost. Clearly defined areas of lawn, garden beds and water are bisected by the flowing curve of a cedar path. Two rectangular water walls lead to long pools of water, an example of a communal paddling pool, says Frost. At the far end, a cedar-clad retreat provides a sunken sitting area and a rooftop viewing platform with wildflower plantings and a beehive.



LEFT / Circular concrete stepping stones offer a more adventurous route across the paddling pool.



From the rooftop
The rooftop space features a mix of wildflower plantings and turf and is intended to attract insects and bees.



KEY PLANTS & MATERIALS

Katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
Winged spindle (*Euonymus alatus* 'Compactus')
Siberian flag (*Iris sibirica* 'Caesar's Brother')
Avens *Geum* 'Marmalade' and 'Totally Tangerine'
Mullein *Verbascum* 'Clementine'
Woods cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*)
Yew (*Taxus baccata*)
Poured concrete
Corten steel
Cedar

Steel the scene
The retreat is built from corten steel, with cedar cladding cut into the flowing curve.

Shape shifting
Vertical lines of iris and foxgloves balance the soft dome shapes of yew shrubs.

Curve your enthusiasm
The cedar path is another example of the curved forms that echo the shape of iconic Bauhaus buildings.

To see more Chelsea highlights, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.

viewa

Gold medal



Sense of scale
Tension is created by monolithic cantilevered platforms looming above delicate plant growth.

Live streaming
An underground stream can be glimpsed at various points. Darren Hawkes designed this hidden stream to "hint at more than can be seen".

Gold medal

KEY PLANTS & MATERIALS

Field elm
(*Ulmus minor*)
Hazel
(*Corylus avellana*)
Northern Japanese magnolia
(*Magnolia korbus*)
Mrs Robb's bonnet
(*Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae*)
Foxglove
(*Digitalis purpurea*)
Red campion
(*Silene dioica*)
Cow parsley
(*Anthriscus sylvestris*)
Moor grass
(*Seslaria caerulea*)
Hand-cut slate
glued onto aluminium
Reclaimed granite

At the elm
The wonderfully corky bark and ridged stems of these field elms give a rugged, rural feel.

Slated for success
The platforms are made from more than 40,000 pieces of hand-cut slate. Their scale is balanced by the height and volume of surrounding plants.

RIGHT / Weathered and worn, this granite boulder suggests nature's vast geological timescale.



The Brewin Dolphin Garden
Designer **Darren Hawkes**
Sponsor **Brewin Dolphin**

The drama of this garden lay in its play of light and shade, the contrast of its built forms and fragile plants, and synthesis of old and new. The floating platforms were inspired by 1930s architecture and by prehistoric monuments throughout Britain, says Hawkes. "They allow you to pass through the garden without damaging the tender woodland plants. They also create excitement through the contrast of their mass with unfolding springtime plants." An underground stream, glimpsed through a series of openings, adds another layer. Hawkes has used timeless materials in very different ways. Granite boulders look raw and earthy compared to the intricacy of hand-cut slate. A hole in the canopy is designed to send shafts of light into the garden, illuminating different plants at different times of day. The slightly wild planting uses a green palette, with accents of blue, purple and white, evoking country hedgerows and woodland clearings. ▶





Silver-gilt medal



KEY PLANTS & MATERIALS

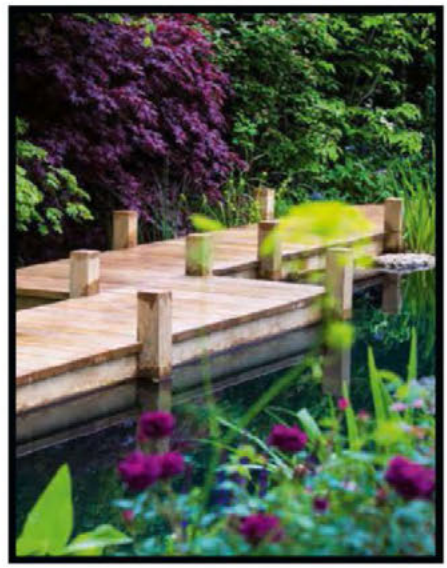
River birch
(*Betula nigra*)
Japanese snowbell
(*Styrax japonica*)
Full-moon maple
(*Acer japonicum* 'Vitifolium')
Japanese maple
(*Acer palmatum* 'Trompenberg')
Roses
(*Rosa* 'Louise Odier', 'Tuscany Superb' and 'Nuits de Young')
Purple gooseneck loosestrife
(*Lysimachia atropurpurea* 'Beaujolais')
Purbeck stone
from Dorset
Green oak

RIGHT / The water feature is also a natural swimming pond and hosted a performance by synchronised swimmers during the show.



The Retreat
Designer **Jo Thompson**
Sponsor **M&G**

Working with an all-female team, Jo Thompson designed this garden to represent a hideaway, distanced from the hustle and bustle of modern living. "I started thinking about a writer's room in the garden," she says. "Thinking about Vita Sackville-West's tower, where she wrote at Sissinghurst, gave me the idea of elevating the structure, with an open storey below and closed upper level." Her design could easily be translated to a home garden. "The building dimensions are real, so it's a useable space." The structure overlooks a large pond, edged with water-loving plants and a woodland of river birches and Japanese maples. "I like things to have more than one function, so it's a natural swimming pool where the plants clean the water." Paths lead from the pool through woodland plantings and out to a sunny area with a sunken seating area. There, the relaxed planting style incorporates a romantic tumble of roses, peonies and sun-loving perennials. **H&G**





Claudia with her beloved Rhodesian ridgeback, Bongo.

GREEN THUMB

CLAUDIA NEVELL

German-born landscape designer Claudia has been practising her craft on the mid-north coast of NSW for 20 years. Here, she shares her gardening wisdom.

When did your love of gardening blossom? My grandfather had a fantastic Mediterranean garden – in the south of Germany, of all places – where I spent a lot of time as a child. He built enclosures around his orange trees and agaves and used heaters to get them through the winters. He also had a great sense of scale and used plants in unusual ways.

When did you turn it into a career? I could never think of anything else I would rather do; I still can't. I began an apprenticeship in Germany 30 years ago, working in a large nursery, then studied horticulture and garden design in the UK. I arrived in Australia in 1990, working first in Sydney and then in Coffs Harbour, and began my own business 20 years ago.

What's your garden philosophy? A garden must always relate to its surroundings. A carefully chosen plant palette that takes into account location, microclimate and aspect will always produce a harmonious picture. I always use both exotic plants and those indigenous to the area. A garden should be timeless and complement the style of the residence and suit the owner's lifestyle.

What kind of gardens do you design? I like to create real gardens rather than outdoor rooms. A garden should be a place in which to escape and relax, a place that functions as an extension of the inside but offers a completely different experience from being in the house.

Most exciting garden moment to date? Seeing a garden designed by [18th-century landscape designer] Capability Brown in England. It was lit up with autumn colour! Just as exciting was my grass tree producing impressive flower spikes last spring: they lasted for months and provided a feast for honeyeaters.

A garden everyone should visit? The Gardens by the Bay and the flower domes in Singapore. They're beautiful and the engineering sets a new benchmark for forward-thinking design.

Your plant of the moment? So many choices... Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha* 'Santa Barbara'). It's one of the few perennials that thrive in a humid climate and it flowers almost year-round.

Always take time to smell the....? Crushed leaves of lemon-scented eucalyptus, especially after rain. **H&G**

Garden Expressions; 0409 513 305 or www.gardenexpressions.com.au.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Scott Hawkins (portrait), bauersyndication.com.au (parsley).

CLAUDIA'S FAVOURITE...



Garden-related gift
Bunches of herbs or vegies from my garden.



Gardening book
The Colors of Nature by Raymond Jungles.



Gardening tool
My mattock. It's the best tool for digging.

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Platter, Country Road. **Teaspoon,** West Elm. **Tray,** Papaya. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Roast pumpkin with dukkah
For recipe, see next page.

Styling by Michaela Le Compte. Photograph by John Paul Urizar.

LIVING

ENTERTAINING

TABLE OF PLENTY

A childhood spent in Israel and a career that's taken him around the globe set chef **Michael Rantissi** on the path to Kepos Street Kitchen, his Sydney restaurant that feels just like home.

Middle Eastern cuisine has become a darling of the Australian dining scene, widely loved for its tasty, hearty, wholesome dishes. Michael Rantissi opened his first restaurant, Kepos Street Kitchen, in Sydney's Redfern in 2012, recreating the way he and his partner Kristy Frawley (pictured with Michael) entertain at home. "The food should be simple and delicious, and I believe there should be plenty of it," says Michael. "I'm happy that more and more people are experiencing the dishes I grew up with. Middle Eastern cuisine is full of vegies and fresh flavours." Michael's latest venture Kepos & Co, opened in Waterloo in June. With a wood-fired oven and all-day brunch, we predict a stampede of spice-lovers.

Kepos Street Kitchen; (02) 9319 3919 or www.keposstreetkitchen.com.au.

Roast pumpkin with dukkah

Prep: 5 mins. Cooking: 35 mins. Serves 6-8 as a side dish or as part of a banquet.

Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Cut **1.2kg butternut pumpkin** into 3cm-thick wedges (skin on). Place in a bowl with **100ml olive oil** and **1 tsp sea salt flakes,** toss to combine, then arrange in a single layer on a lined baking tray. Sprinkle **5 tbsp dukkah** over, then roast until golden and tender, about 35mins, turning half way. Meanwhile, combine **1 cup loosely packed mint, chopped, 60ml extra-virgin olive oil** and **finely grated zest of 1 lemon** in a bowl; season to taste. Arrange pumpkin on a platter and spoon dressing over.

ON THE MENU

"*Lahm bi ajine* – the lamb and mint flatbread pizza – is a dish I grew up with. The date cake [see *viewa* for recipe] is from Mum's repertoire... but I have added my own twist."



Text by Alaana Cobon. Styling by Michaela Le Compte. Photography by John Paul Urizar.

Lamb & mint flatbread pizza with yoghurt

Prep: 20 mins + 1 hr 45 mins proving. Cooking: 15-20 mins. Makes 6.

2 cups (300g) plain or bread flour
2 packets (14g) dry yeast
1 tsp caster sugar
150g Greek yoghurt, plus extra to serve
50ml olive oil
Topping
300g coarsely minced lamb
1 small brown onion, finely diced
2 red bird's eye chillies, finely chopped
½ cup loosely packed mint, finely chopped, plus a few whole leaves extra for garnish (optional)
2 tsp cumin powder
¼ cup (60ml) olive oil, plus 1 tbsp extra
Lemon wedges, to serve

1 / Place flour, yeast, sugar and 1 tsp salt in a large bowl and mix to combine; make a well in the centre. In a separate bowl, stir together yoghurt, oil and 50ml water. Add yoghurt mixture to flour and use your hands to mix until combined. Turn onto a lightly floured bench and knead to a smooth dough, about 8mins. Return dough to mixing bowl, cover with a damp tea towel and stand in a draught-free place until doubled in size, about 1hr 15mins.

2 / Divide dough into 6 equal portions. Knead each portion for 1-2mins then rest, covered with a damp tea towel, until doubled in size, about a further 30mins.

3 / Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan) and line 2 baking trays with baking paper. Place all topping ingredients in a bowl and mix well; season to taste.

4 / Place 3 dough balls on each prepared tray, leaving space in between, and flatten into discs about 15cm in diameter. Divide topping equally over flatbreads, lightly pressing mixture into the dough and ensuring base is completely covered. Drizzle with extra olive oil and bake for 15-20mins or until golden, swapping trays half way.

5 / To serve, drizzle yoghurt over pizza and scatter whole mint leaves over, if using. Serve immediately with lemon wedges, if you like.



Marble slab, Papaya. Vintage **sugar bowl** and **knife,** stylist's own. **Tiles,** Tiles by Kate. **OPPOSITE /** Kristy and Michael. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

Veal kanafeh

Prep: 10 mins. Cooking: 45 mins.
Serves 6-8 as part of a banquet.

¼ tsp caraway seeds
¼ tsp cumin seeds
½ cup (125ml) olive oil
1 small brown onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
600g veal sirloin, cut into 2cm dice
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
200g kataifi (bird's nest) pastry (available from Middle Eastern grocers and select delis)

1 / Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan).
2 / In a small frypan, dry-roast whole spices over medium heat until fragrant, about 2mins. Remove to a spice grinder or mortar and pestle and grind finely.
3 / Heat 80ml olive oil in a saucepan over medium heat, add onion and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5mins. Increase heat to high. Add veal in batches and cook, turning occasionally, until golden, about 4mins. Add spice mixture, stir to combine; season to taste.
4 / Transfer mixture to a 22cm-diameter baking dish. Shred kataifi over meat until all meat is covered. Drizzle over remaining olive oil, scatter with sea salt flakes and bake, uncovered, until golden, about 25mins. Serve hot.

Wooden board and **soup plate,** Country Road. **Votive** (used as yoghurt pot), Papaya. **Servers, casserole pot** and **wallpaper** (used as table runner), stylist's own. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



Grilled chilli, garlic & coriander salad

Prep: 5 mins + 30 mins cooling. Cooking: 8 mins.
Serves 6 as a side or as part of a banquet.

500g mixed long green and red chillies
4 cloves garlic, finely sliced
1 cup loosely packed coriander leaves
¼ cup (60ml) olive oil
2 tbsp red-wine vinegar

1 / Heat a barbecue or grill pan to high heat. Grill chillies, turning occasionally until charred and tender, about 3mins each side. Transfer chillies to a bowl, cover with plastic wrap and stand until chillies have cooled to room temperature, about 30mins.
2 / Peel cooled chillies, leaving them whole; discard skin. Return chillies to bowl and add remaining ingredients. Toss to combine, season to taste and serve. ▶



"I LIKE TO BE ORGANISED, WITH EVERYTHING PLANNED TO PERFECTION SO THAT I CAN SPEND THE EVENING WITH MY GUESTS RATHER THAN IN THE KITCHEN." MICHAEL

ABOVE / **Plate,** MH Ceramics. **Spoon,** stylist's own. **Salt dish,** Papaya. **Votive candleholder** and **water glass,** West Elm. **Tiles,** Tiles by Kate.
MICHAEL'S FAVOURITE THINGS / **left Moroccan bowls.** "We have a stack of them." **Salt, lemon and olive oil.** "Three of my favourite ingredients. They feature in most of my dishes." **Copper pots and ladle.** "Great for taking food from the oven or cooktop straight to the table." **Chopping board.** "I love using this chopping board as an alternative to a serving platter."



Lamb & chickpea stew

Prep: 10 mins + 30 mins cooling. Cooking: 4 hrs.
Serves 6-8 as part of a banquet.

100ml olive oil
1kg lamb shanks
8 cups (2L) good-quality vegetable stock
2 small brown onions, diced
3 cloves garlic, sliced
3 celery stalks, coarsely chopped
2 long red chillies, finely chopped
2 tbsp coriander seeds, crushed
2 tbsp cumin seeds, crushed
1 tbsp ground turmeric
1x 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1 cup loosely packed coriander leaves
Flatbread or rice, to serve
Natural yoghurt, to serve (optional)

1 / Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Brown lamb shanks, turning occasionally, about 3mins each. Add stock and bring to the boil, reduce heat to low and simmer, covered with a lid, for 3hrs or until meat falls off the bone. Skim the surface from time to time to remove impurities. Turn off heat and cool shanks in liquid for 30mins, then remove meat from bones and break into chunks; reserve meat and discard bones. Strain stock, reserving 4 cups (1L). Remaining can be frozen for up to 2 months.
2 / Meanwhile, heat remaining olive oil in a separate saucepan over medium heat. Add onions and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5mins. Add celery and chilli and cook, stirring occasionally until celery is tender, about a further 4mins. Add all spices and stir until fragrant, about a further 2mins. Add chickpeas and reserved stock, bring to the boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, until liquid has reduced by one-third, about 25mins. Return lamb to pot and simmer until heated through and mixture is slightly thickened, about a further 10mins.
3 / To serve, ladle stew into bowls and garnish with coriander. Serve with flatbread or rice and a dollop of yoghurt.



Stuffed quail with chorizo, pine nuts & dates

Prep: 20 mins + cooling. Cooking: 10 mins Serves 6.

300g chorizo, finely diced
½ brown onion, diced
150g Medjool dates, deseeded and chopped
160g pine nuts, toasted
Handful mint leaves, chopped
6 quails, butterflied
2 tbsp olive oil

1 / Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Heat a frypan to medium heat and fry chorizo, stirring occasionally, until crisp, about 2mins. Add onion and sauté until tender, about a further 4mins. Transfer to a bowl, set aside to cool for 10mins, then add dates, pine nuts and mint, season with salt and pepper and mix to combine.
2 / Place butterflied quail skin-side down on a work surface. Divide stuffing into 6 portions and place in centre of quails. Close quail meat around stuffing and secure with toothpicks.
3 / Heat oil in a frypan over medium heat. Cook quail until golden brown, turning occasionally, about 2mins. Transfer to a baking tray and roast until cooked through, about 6mins. Rest for 3mins before serving.

Churros

Prep: 20 mins. Cooking 15 mins. Serves 6-8.

200ml buttermilk
100g unsalted butter
1 vanilla bean, split, seeds scraped
1 tbsp caster sugar
2 cups (300g) plain flour, sifted
4 large free-range eggs
150g caster sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
Vegetable oil, for deep frying

1 / Place buttermilk, butter, vanilla bean, sugar, ½ tsp table salt and 120ml water in a saucepan over medium heat and bring to the boil; remove vanilla pod. Reduce heat to low and gradually add flour, stirring continuously with a wooden spoon, until flour has been absorbed. Continue to cook, stirring continuously, until mixture is smooth and comes away from sides of saucepan, about 10mins. Remove from heat and cool mixture in saucepan for 5mins, then transfer to a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment; mix at medium speed until mixture is completely cool, about 3mins. Reduce mixer speed to slow-medium and add eggs one at a time, ensuring each is well incorporated before adding the next. Increase speed to medium and beat until mixture is smooth and no longer sticks to sides of mixing bowl, about 5mins. Transfer dough to piping bag fitted with a 1.5cm star nozzle.

2 / Combine caster sugar and cinnamon in a bowl; set aside.

3 / Place vegetable oil in a large, deep saucepan and heat to 170°C. Carefully pipe 10cm long pieces of dough (about 6 at a time) directly into the oil; use scissors to cut dough at the right length (take care as hot oil will splash). Deep-fry churros, turning occasionally until golden, about 3mins. Remove with a slotted spoon, shaking off excess oil, then dust with cinnamon sugar until churros are coated. Keep warm. Repeat with remaining mixture.

4 / Serve warm with warm chocolate dip. **H&G**



Metallic **sack,** Uashmama. Marble **cheese board,** Papaya. **Spoon** and **votive holder** (used as cup), West Elm. **OPPOSITE TOP / Ladle** and **pot,** stylist's own. **Bowl** and **cutlery,** West Elm. Marble **board,** Papaya. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM / Plate,** Papaya. **Cutlery,** West Elm. **Napkin,** stylist's own. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

For Michael's date & honey teacake recipe, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.

DRINKS

THE DEEP END



When the dining is done, there's nothing so satisfying as sipping on an aromatic and intensely flavoured digestif, writes **Toni Paterson.**



Whether a digestif actually aids digestion is debatable. But sitting a little longer while you sip your drink gives food more time to settle and that's never a bad thing. Having said that, many digestifs are made from fruit, herbs, spices, seeds, bark, flowers and roots, some of which – anecdotally, at least – may have a positive effect on digestion.

There are many types of digestifs, ranging from liqueurs to spirits to distilled versions of local wines or fermented grains that have been aged in oak. They are often distinctive, such as the sweet, spicy and herbaceous German tipple Jägermeister; or dry, spicy and bitter like the Italian amaro Fernet-Branca.

Liqueurs are sweet and strongly flavoured. In France the prefix 'crème' is used in conjunction with the substance it is made from – crème de cassis is made from blackcurrants; crème de menthe from mint – and refers to its consistency, not the addition of fresh cream (as in Baileys Irish Cream). The best examples have intense, linear characters.

Angostura bitters ($20/200ml) is a concentrated aromatic bitter that also comes in an orange version ($15/100ml). For a warming and satisfying after-dinner drink pour a nip or two of your preferred dark spirit over ice and enhance with bitters – two dashes of aromatic and one of orange. Stir in a little brown sugar for balance.

Whisky, made from distilled fermented grain, is for some the ultimate digestif. It's most famously made in Scotland, where origin, producer, age, grain and oak type all impact the flavour and mouth-feel of the whisky. Ireland, Japan and Australia also produce quality whisky. Single malts, made exclusively from malted barley and batch-distilled at a single site, are prized for their unique aromas and flavours whereas the best blended whiskies are made from a range of grains, and/or from multiple distilleries, and are prized for their balance and harmony.

American whiskey can be made from rye, corn and/or barley. Kentucky bourbon is made primarily from corn and is aged in charred new-oak barrels. Tennessee whiskey is made in a similar way but is filtered through sugar maple charcoal, making it incredibly smooth.

Light rum is made from distilling fermented sugar cane juice whereas dark rum, which is stronger in flavour, is made from caramelised sugar or molasses.

Brandy is distilled wine, aged in barrels. The French regions of Cognac and Armagnac produce highly revered styles. Cognac is said to be more elegant and refined, due in part to a double distillation, though many prefer the assertive and spirited character of Armagnac. In general, the longer a brandy is aged in oak, the more intense, complex, and consequently expensive, it is likely to be.

Calvados is a type of apple brandy made in Normandy from the distillation of cider and oak-aged for at least two years. **H&G**

TONI'S TOP DROPS

Tobermory 15 Year Old Single Malt, $150/700ml
A highly distinctive whisky from the Isle of Mull. Wildly fragrant with marmalade and vanilla-toffee notes and the palate is warming and spicy.

Dom Bénédictine, $64/700ml
A heady blend of 27 botanicals and spices. The underlying spirit is smooth and there is a touch of honey for balance.

Langlois Crème De Cassis, $25/500ml
Incredibly bright and fragrant – like a dessert in a glass. Strong blackcurrant notes with poised sweetness and gentle drying tannins.

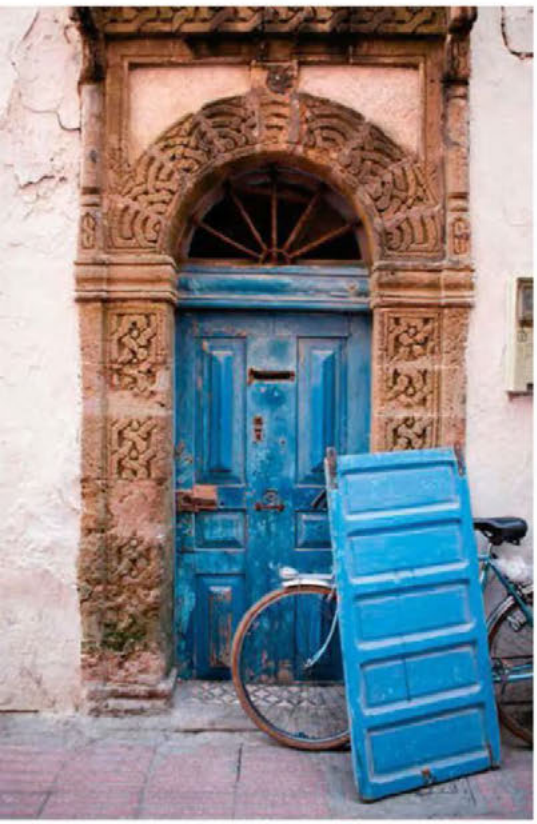
Hine Rare VSOP Cognac, $80/700ml
An incredibly smooth, refined and alluring cognac. A long, smooth palate with sweet-spice notes follows floral and vanilla aromatics.

Photograph by Chris Jansen.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS: **Entrants must retain their original valid purchase receipt as proof of purchase to validate their entry.** Promotion opens on 25th June and will close 23:59pm AEST on August 31st, 2015. Open to all Australian residents aged 18 years and over. One entry permitted per person. Check local stores/stockists for availability of Sugars Of The World product. The Major Prize must be redeemed in full and as a package by 10th September 2016. The Major Prize must be booked by Tuesday 10th November 2015.The winner and their companion must be 18 years and over to redeem the prize. For full terms and conditions please see http://www.bauer-media.com.au/terms/competition-terms. See http://www.bauer-media.com.au/privacy.htm for Bauer Media's Privacy Notice. If you do not want your information given to any other organisation not associated with this promotion, please indicate this clearly on your entry. The Promoter is Bauer Media Pty Ltd (ABN 18 053 273 546).



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ENTERTAINING

AT MY TABLE



Roasts are a busy cook's friend. Crank up your oven and dish up some some flavoursome meat and veg, writes chef **Jared Ingersoll.**

For a bonus recipe, fried potates in red wine, use the free *viewa* app and scan this page.

Styling by Michaela Le Compte. Photograph by John Paul Urizar.

When it comes to roasting meat, many people will do anything they can to avoid including the fat and bone. And that makes me sad. We *need* fat; it's an important part of our diet. And, leaving bones attached to the meat when cooking helps it to retain moisture and flavour. It also serves to regulate the cooking process. The best part about a standing rib roast is that it has fat well-distributed throughout the cut and you have no choice but to leave the fat with the meat as it cooks. It also sits beautifully on the bone and is easy to carve. While the oven is on, keep the theme going with some lovely roasted veg to serve on the side. Too easy!

ROASTED CABBAGE WITH MUSSELS

Prep: 10 mins. Cooking: 2 hrs. Serves 6.

1 whole medium savoy cabbage
2kg black mussels, cleaned and trimmed
3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
Few sprigs fresh thyme
2-3 fresh bay leaves
½ cup (125ml) white wine
220ml extra-virgin olive oil
4 bunches chives, chopped very finely

1 / Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan). Place cabbage on a baking tray and roast for 2hrs or until soft all the way through.
2 / Meanwhile, heat a large saucepan with a tight-fitting lid over high heat. When saucepan is hot, place mussels, garlic, thyme, bay leaves and wine in saucepan and immediately cover with lid. Cook for 5-6mins, shaking pot from time to time.
3 / Strain mussels into a colander set over a clean saucepan; set mussels aside. Return liquid to medium-high heat and simmer until reduced by two-thirds. Stir in the oil and set aside to cool.
4 / Remove mussel meat from shells, leaving a few whole to garnish. Place in a bowl with mussel dressing and chives.
5 / Remove outer leaves of cabbage and slice into wedges; drizzle dressing over. Garnish with reserved mussels.

SLOW-ROASTED CARROTS

Prep: 10 mins. Cooking: 1½ hrs. Serves 4.

250g butter
8 large carrots, scrubbed
3-4 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
Few sprigs fresh thyme
180g roasted hazelnuts, crushed
Small piece fresh horseradish

1 / Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan).
2 / Heat a small roasting tray on the stove over moderate heat; add butter, cook until foamy. Add carrots and season well; toss to coat. Transfer tray to oven and roast until carrots are very soft, about 1-1½hrs. Remove to a plate; slice lengthways.
3 / Return roasting tray to stove over low heat. Add garlic and thyme; cook until fragrant. Add hazelnuts, toss to combine; spoon over carrots and grate horseradish on top.

STANDING RIB ROAST

Prep: 10 mins. Cooking: 1½ hrs. Serves 6.

3kg standing rib roast, bone in
½ bunch fresh thyme
Small knob ginger, grated
1 head garlic, separated into cloves

1 / Remove meat from fridge 30mins before using. Season well with salt only.
2 / Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan).
3 / Place 2 tbsp olive oil in a roasting tray and heat on stove over medium-high heat. Sear roast on all sides until well coloured, about 8-10mins. Remove from heat. Scatter thyme and grated ginger on top of meat; arrange garlic around tray.
4 / Roast for 1hr 20mins or until cooked to your liking, basting with pan juices from time to time. If necessary, cover with foil to prevent over-browning. Rest at least 30mins before serving. **H&G**



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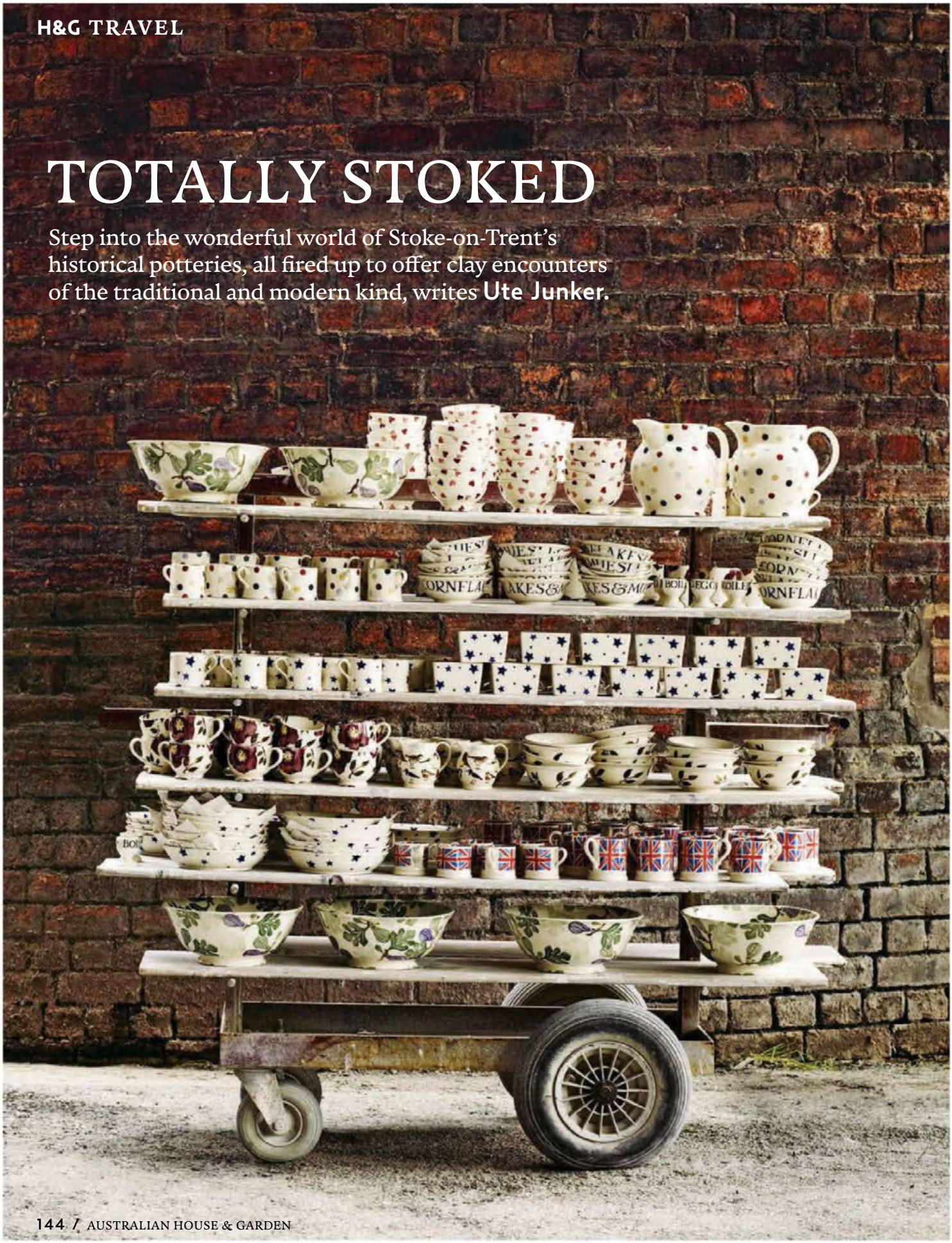
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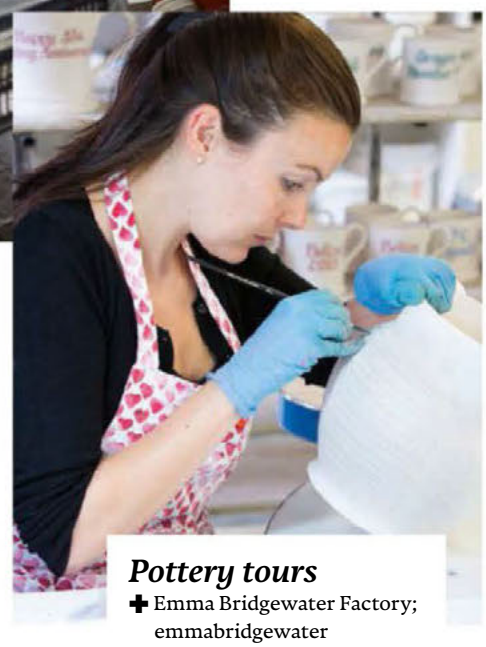
TOTALLY STOKED

Step into the wonderful world of Stoke-on-Trent's historical potteries, all fired up to offer clay encounters of the traditional and modern kind, writes **Ute Junker.**









FROM LEFT / The Tea Room at the World of Wedgwood. A Burleigh worker dusts biscuit ware (unglazed pottery) at Middleport Pottery, built in 1888. Vase painting at the Emma Bridgewater factory.
OPPOSITE / A cart of covetable Emma Bridgewater wares.

It takes a village to make a teacup. That's the first thing I learn when touring Stoke-on-Trent. This English midlands town, about three hours' drive north-east of London, has long been synonymous with fine china: Wedgwood, Spode and Royal Doulton all had their headquarters here. Although today there are fewer factories than in the town's Victorian heyday, some things have not changed. The labour-intensive manufacturing process is one of them.

As the guides are quick to tell you, every piece of pottery produced in these factories – plates and teacups, bowls and vases – passes through 25 pairs of hands before it is ready to ship.

Wedgwood, Emma Bridgewater, Moorcroft and Middleport Pottery are among the factories offering tours that take visitors through the entire production process. We start in the workshops where liquid clay – called slip – is poured into moulds to make cups, and solid clay is pounded and smoothed out to make plates. From here, we follow the wares as they are glazed and repeatedly fired.

At each stage of the process, separate tasks are performed by specialised workers, many of whom are blessed with wonderfully archaic job titles. Over the course of two days, I encounter dippers and fettlers wielding equipment including jiggers and jolliers. The job of a fettler, for instance, is to examine each piece as it comes out of the mould, removing any seams or visible markings with a damp sponge. The most fascinating part of the process is the decoration, which is done in different ways at different factories. Whatever the technique, the artists' skill makes them mesmerising to watch.

At Emma Bridgewater, they create graceful flower patterns on mugs and teapots armed with just a simple sponge. At Middleport Pottery, the intricate patterns for Burleigh pottery are transferred from a sheet of tissue paper and worked into position with a damp flannel. To cover the awkward angles formed by spouts and handles, the decorators select, snip and fit into place small segments of paper, working at an astonishing pace.

At Moorcroft, which specialises in art pieces, the richly coloured decorations are thrown into vivid relief through a process called tubelining. Thin trails of liquid ▶

Pottery tours

- Emma Bridgewater Factory; emmabridgewaterfactory.co.uk.
- Middleport Pottery and Burleigh Factory Shop; www.princes-regeneration.org/middleport-pottery/visit-us.
- Moorcroft Heritage Visitor Centre; moorcroft.com.
- World of Wedgwood; wedgwoodvisitorcentre.com.
- Gladstone Pottery Museum. Built into a pottery, this museum offers information-packed exhibits and demonstrations; stoke.gov.uk/museum.
- Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. With a 50,000-piece ceramic collection, there is a lot to see. Also great for children; stokemuseums.org.uk.

Photograph by Max Read (Burleigh worker).

◀ clay are piped onto each piece, emphasising the shapes and colours of the pattern.

The fact that these centuries-old traditions have survived is a minor miracle, given the fluctuating fortunes of Stoke-on-Trent. At its 19th-century peak, it was one of the most prosperous places in England. By the 1970s and '80s, however, the industry was in crisis, unable to compete with cheap imports. Between 1998 and 2008, the industry lost 20,000 jobs; even the renowned firm of Spode moved its operations offshore.

These days, however, optimism is in the air. Spode was bought by Portmeirion Group, which has returned some of its manufacturing to Stoke-on-Trent. Newcomers such as Emma Bridgewater have established themselves, while the venerable Middleport Pottery factory – which produces Burleigh's floral-patterned pottery, the delicate latticework of Leedsware and the brilliantly hued Poole pottery – has received a new lease of life. Thanks to £8 million, courtesy of Prince Charles' The Prince's Regeneration Trust, the Victorian factory has been restored and is now open to visitors.

Another boost to the region was the much anticipated June opening of the World of Wedgwood. This visitor's centre offers a factory tour, museum and design studio visits. Meals are available at the Dining Hall, but a more opulent option is afternoon tea in the Wedgwood Tea Room, where 52 blends of Wedgwood's own tea are on offer. H&G

A bottle oven at the Gladstone Pottery Museum. There were once 4000 of these coal-fired kilns, until the Clean Air Act of the 1950s shut them down. Only 47 heritage-listed ovens remain.

Photograph from Alamy. Ute Junker travelled courtesy of VisitBritain; www.visitbritain.com.

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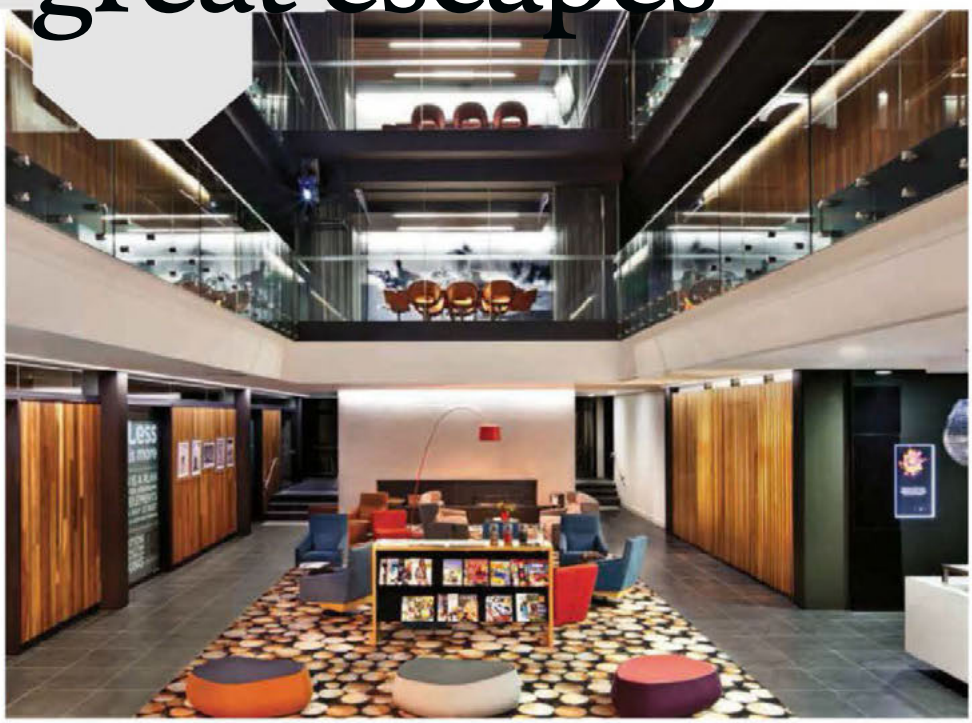
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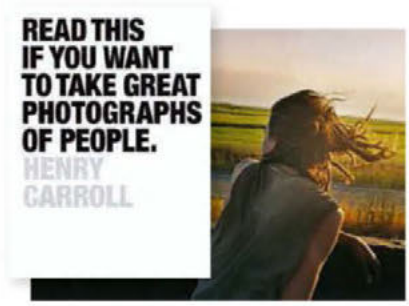
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great escapes



Should the latest crop of hip hotels and the opening of new wildlife lodge Jamala fail to convince you to visit Canberra, the annual flower festival, Floriade, will. Opening on September 12, Floriade 2015 is based around the theme 'Reflection' to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli. Be sure to catch NightFest (November 23-27) too, where you can explore the flowers after dark, browse the night markets and catch some music. After enjoying all this natural beauty, we recommend retiring to the slick but cosy East Hotel (pictured above) – home to arresting art and colourful designer pieces. We particularly love its magazine policy; select some favourites from the foyer and return them when you've finished. Now that's blooming generous. ***www.jamalawildlifelodge.com.au, www.floriadeaustralia.com, www.easthotel.com.au.***



The title says it all. This fabulous book by Henry Carroll distils portrait photography into seven areas including Composition, The Gaze, and The Street, and is full of insights into how to take startling and original shots of fellow humans ($27.99, Laurence King). Available in August.



Gadget-loving travellers will adore this universal charger, a stylish way to power up cameras, phones and other devices on the go. Kreafunk ToCharge Power Banks, $85/each; www.petersofkensington.com.au.

3 OF A KIND: OVERNIGHT BAGS



Buyer beware: the Femme leather overnight bag, $449, is so elegant you'll want to update your entire travel wardrobe to match. Trenery; www.trenery.com.au.

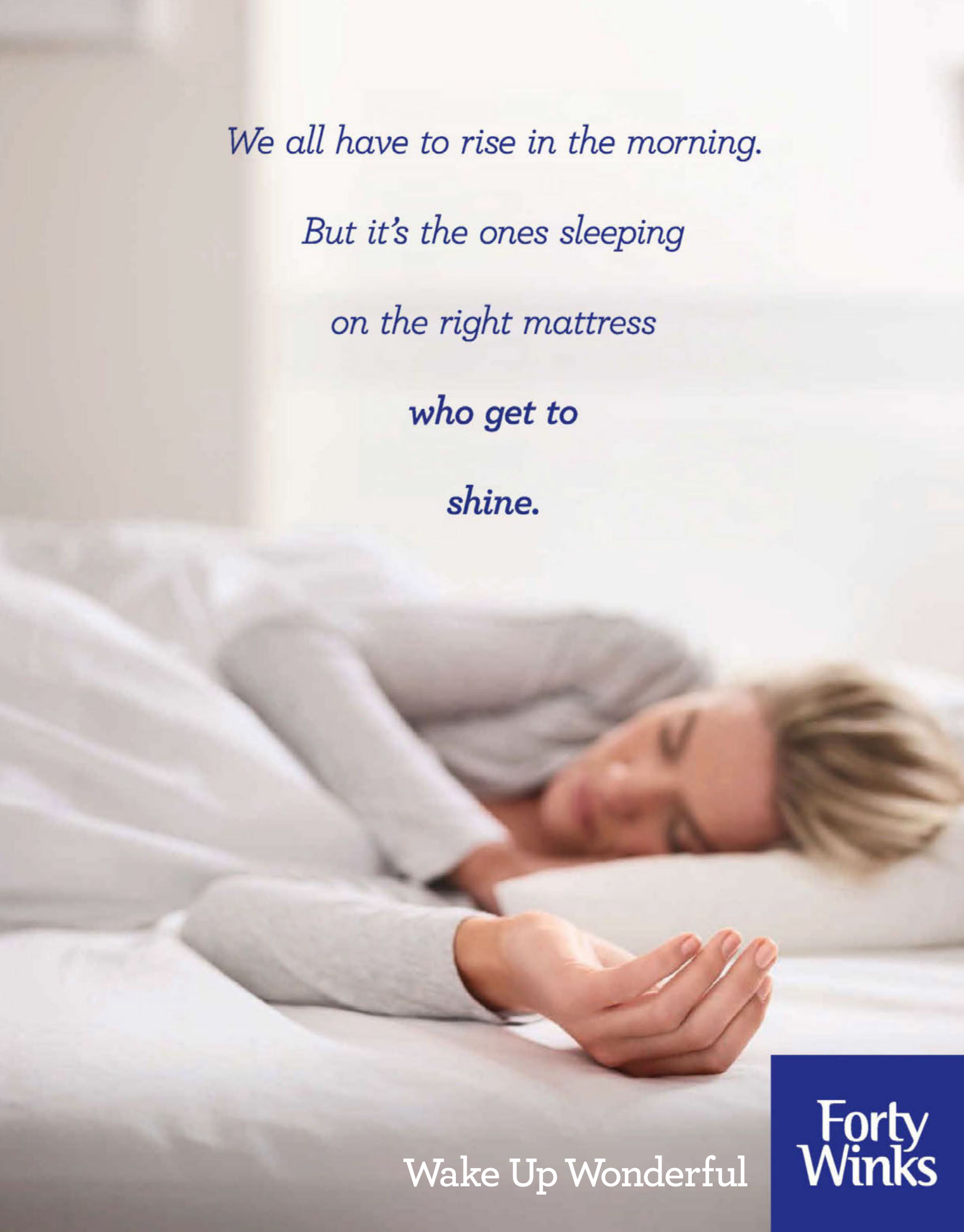


It may be winter, but that's no reason to forgo a touch of tropical fun in your luggage ensemble. Penfold Irondale nylon canvas roll bag, $129; www.theiconic.com.



This gorgeous overnighter, $299, was crafted by the skilled leather artisans of Chiapas, Mexico. Fortunately, it's available from a local online store that specialises in Fair Trade Mexican clothes and accessories; www.littletienda.com.au.

Produced by Vanessa Walker. Photography by Chris Jansen (Mexican bag), Mike Brodie 2006–09, #0924 from the series A Period of Juvenile Prosperity (image of girl).


We all have to rise in the morning.
But it's the ones sleeping
on the right mattress
who get to
shine.
Wake Up Wonderful
Forty Winks

BEAUTY

A FACE ODYSSEY



New-generation face masks offer a potent ally in the battle against complexion problems. Find the right mask and you'll be on the way to settling your skin issues, writes **Elisabeth King.**

Face masks are one of the fastest-growing categories of the global beauty industry. Cutting-edge formulas deliver a targeted zap to skin to address a range of concerns. However it pays to choose the right mask for your skin condition and age.

IN YOUR 30s

The stress of juggling family and work commitments can play havoc with skin, resulting in congested pores and breakouts. But don't automatically reach for acne masks designed to suck the oil out of teenage skin, as these will leave your face blotchy and tight. Estée Lauder's Clear Difference range offers a grown-up solution intended to break the blemish cycle and minimise the appearance of pores. Clear Difference Purifying Exfoliating Mask ($58) contains a white-clay blend to draw out impurities and micro-exfoliators to smooth the skin surface.

Single-use sachets are a bargain and allow you to give a mask a test run. Montagne Jeunesse Dead Sea Mud Spa Mask ($4.99) is loaded with minerals to reinvigorate and firm lacklustre skin. The clay-infused bamboo fabric fits to your face and lifts off easily, leaving little residue. It's ideal after a long plane trip.

IN YOUR 40s

Brightening and replenishing masks can help hydrate your skin and protect it against the signs of premature ageing.

Reports that the Duchess of Cornwall is a devotee of bee-venom masks sparked worldwide interest in this anti-ageing treatment. How does it work? The theory is that bee venom 'tricks' the skin into believing it has been lightly stung, which stimulates the production of collagen and elastin. Abeeco Bee Venom Mask ($79) is the hero product of Abeeco, one of New Zealand's leading natural skincare companies. In addition to bee venom, manuka honey and cocoa and shea butters, it contains vitamins C and E to moisturise and pep up the complexion.

The creamy formula of Clinique's Moisture Surge Overnight Mask ($47) is intended to plump up skin with an intense dose of moisture and strengthen its barrier function, with the aim of improving natural moisture retention. A blend of powerful antioxidants also protects the skin against free-radical damage.

When your skin is feeling flaky and drab, a hydrating, nutritious mask can rectify that drum-tight feeling. Jurlique Rose Moisture Plus Moisturising Cream Mask ($55) incorporates a blend of rosehip oil and other botanicals, formulated to rebalance the skin and improve radiance.



IN YOUR 50s

Beauty counters are now awash with a dizzying array of masks making the sort of claims once exclusive to pricey serums.

Described as a 'facelift in a bottle', Environ Intensive Revival Masque ($96) boasts a trio of anti-ageing acids and is particularly recommended for uneven skin tone and sun damage. Regular use helps promotes a more luminous and smoother look. The potency of these anti-ageing acids can increase the skin's sensitivity to sunlight, so make sure that you also include a high-SPF sunscreen in your daily beauty routine.

Hollywood A-listers are major fans of pre-premiere firming masks. But you don't need an upcoming special occasion as a reason to enjoy the powerful action of an all-in-one therapy mask. La Prairie's Cellular Hydralift Firming Mask ($195) has multiple objectives: to reduce redness and lift and firm skin while increasing moisture levels.

If wrinkles and fine lines are more of an issue, Sanctuary Spa Time Reversal Face Mask ($20) promises an intensive skin lift. Packed with vitamins A, C and E, plus a patented marine complex to stimulate collagen production, it claims to make the skin look less lined and feel more supple.

IN YOUR 60s

Sagging skin and an increasing number of rough patches can bedevil the over-60s, especially those who have been lax about applying sunscreen.

Natio's Restore range, a nine-product line-up formulated for mature complexions, includes cleansing milk and an antioxidant face serum as well as the Restore 10 Minute Moisturising Mask ($20). Crammed with botanical extracts, the mask aims to brighten skin and restore elasticity. H&G

SALON SPLURGE

- Skeyndor Eternal Youth Facial ($185). This one hour treatment packs in a high-nutrient algae and ceramide mask plus an enzyme peel, apple stem-cell serum and concentrated extracts for less lined skin.
- Endota Spa Organics Facial Treatment ($120). A kakadu plum or rosehip and myrrh mask hydrates the face, while a footbath and a hand, scalp and foot massage round out this one-hour treatment.

Rose Moisture Plus Moisturising Cream Mask, $55, Jurlique. Restore 10 Minute Moisturising Mask, $20, Natio. Time Reversal Face Mask,$20, Sanctuary Spa. Cellular Hydralift Firming Mask, $195, La Prairie. Clear Difference Purifying Exfoliating Mask, $58, Estée Lauder. Intensive Revival Masque, $96, Environ. Wall painted interior acrylic in Hey Now, from $69/4L, Valspar. Marble dish, $55, face washers, $12/each, and towels, $18/each, Maison Montage. For similar vintage glass dish, try Sourceress. Marble board, $40, Leura Whisk. Terrarium, $70, Susan Avery Flowers and Events. For similar surface, try Laminex.



Styling by Janet James. Photograph by Will Horner. For Where to Buy, see page 188.

CHECKLIST

BREATHE EASY

How fresh is the air inside your home? See how many of these principles for safe and healthy living you can tick off.

1 **Beware of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).** These are chemicals that escape or 'off-gas' into surrounding air. VOCs can be emitted from materials, finishes and products within the home and can trigger or contribute to illness.

2 AVOID PLASTICS. THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO INDOOR AIR POLLUTION THROUGH OFF-GASSING. PLASTICS CAN ALSO RELEASE CHEMICAL POLLUTANTS INTO HOUSEHOLD DUST.

3 **Ensure good ventilation and airflow.** Ventilation is essential to exhaust unwanted odours, water vapour and pollution, and replace them with fresh air. Be sure to use exhaust fans in wet areas and when cooking. Open windows and doors where possible to help remove indoor pollutants.

4 Embrace HEPA cleaning. Use a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filtration system when you're cleaning; this will trap fine dust particles and stop them from being released back into indoor air.

5 MASTER MOISTURE CONTROL. AVOID MOULD GROWTH BY DECREASING MOISTURE LEVELS IN YOUR HOME. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY PROVIDING ADEQUATE VENTILATION. MOULD CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A RANGE OF HEALTH ISSUES.

6 Seek out non-toxic, environmentally friendly products. Opt for products that have minimal chemical intervention. Products that are non-toxic are better for your health and the health of your home, and are a better, cleaner option for the environment.

7 Look for independent certification on products. These labels will help you find items that have legitimate health or environmental credentials and help you avoid 'greenwashing', or spurious healthy and eco-friendly claims.

8 **Avoid soft-furnishing chemical treatments**. Be aware of whether soft furnishings have been chemically treated before you buy. Avoid stain-resistant, UV-resistant, antibacterial and flame-retardant chemicals as these can break down into household dust and be ingested or inhaled. Contaminated dust has been documented as contributing to asthma, allergies and endocrine-altering illnesses.

9 Opt for natural materials and fibres. Many natural materials and fibres have beneficial characteristics: for example, wool is naturally flame-resistant and has antibacterial properties.



This is an edited extract from *The Smart Living Handbook* by Melissa Wittig & Danielle King ($34.95, www.healthyinteriors.com.au).

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Text by Melissa Wittig of Healthy Interiors. Photography by Ben Dearnley/bauersyndication.com.au (background).

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Photograph from Alicia Taylor/bauersyndication.com.au.

ADVICE

LAUNDRIES IN FOCUS / HOW TO SAVE ENERGY / ASK ROSE-MARIE / PROPERTY

IN FOCUS

LAUNDRIES

It may be a largely utilitarian space, but your laundry can look just as great as the rest of your home, writes **Sarah Pickette.**



Photography by Brigid Arnott/bauersyndication.com.au (this page, top), Armelle Habib/bauersyndication.com.au (this page, bottom), Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au (opposite).

Washing, ironing and dealing with clothes occupies at least two hours a week for the average household, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. But, "It can sometimes feel as though we spend half our lives in the laundry", says Tina de Salis, interior designer with Sydney's Tina & Louise. And that's all the more reason to ensure this most functional of spaces looks good as well as works hard. "Enough bench space for sorting and folding is vital, as is good lighting," she says. "It's worth including a hanging rail and a foldout ironing board, if possible. An exhaust fan is another good inclusion, as is a cupboard for stowing the vacuum cleaner."



1 ***Classic approach*** A generous Shaws Original fireclay double sink from Consolidated Brass plays the starring role in the Brisbane laundry opposite, designed by Owen and Vokes and Peters. Laying subway tiles vertically lends a contemporary air to this essentially classic space. www.owenarchitecture.com.au.



2 **Small pleasures** ***Tucked neatly into the hallway, this laundry nook (above) in a holiday house on the NSW Central Coast demonstrates how to achieve maximum efficiency in minimal space. The Asko condenser dryer shown here requires no external venting and a hanging rail turns the void above the sink into a useful space. www.richardcolearchitecture.com.au.***

3 ***Straight and narrow*** A galley-style laundry is concealed alongside the scullery in this open-plan Melbourne home (left), designed by architecture firm Multiplicity. It includes an airing cabinet and custom joinery by TCM Building Group, which constructed the whole home. Handle-free cabinetry ensures the laundry flows seamlessly into the kitchen area. The woven baskets are from Orient House. www.multiplicity.com.au.



4 ***Simply does it*** There's a rustic charm to this Canberra laundry, conferred mainly by the tumbled stone tiles from Aeria Country Floors that extend into the laundry from the kitchen. Adornment comes in the form of a Mongolian elmwood screen from Beachwood as well as oversized wicker baskets.





5 ***Water play*** ***Located in a self-contained studio in the garden of a northern Sydney home, this laundry (above) is designed for easy after-pool access. The washing machine sits beneath a blackbutt bench that has been cleverly designed with cut-out sections for holding towels. A Sussex Scala Mini basin mixer complements the Caroma Lab sink.***

6 ***Clever details*** Space-saving inclusions elevate a laundry from good to great. This inner-city Sydney home (left) features a drawer-mounted Häfele Ironfix ironing board. A Country Road mirror and Mr Kitly towel rail ensure the space is ready to do double duty as a powder room should the need arise. The square undermount fireclay sink is from Cast Iron Baths. It's teamed with a Sussex Scala mixer in a custom brass finish and understated white subway tiles. Joinery by Ital Furniture. www.farnanfindlay.com.au.

Photography by Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au (this page), James Knowler/bauersyndication.com.au (opposite).



‘HIDDEN DETAILS CAN BE THE HERO IN A FUNCTIONAL SPACE SUCH AS A LAUNDRY’.
PATRICK CAROSCIO

7 ***Straight up and down*** Sliding American-oak doors open to reveal a perfect laundry cupboard in interior designer Patrick Caroscio’s Adelaide home. Elba marble on the bench and splashback provides a touch of luxury, as does LED strip lighting under the overhead cabinets. Floor-to-ceiling storage to the left of the sink includes a hanging rail for ironing. www.designthink.com.au.



8 **Hex effect** *Architect Tom Ferguson made the decision to use hexagonal mosaic tiles from Academy Tiles floor-to-ceiling in this compact laundry in a Sydney terrace. Adding a mirrored wall panel creates the illusion of more space. The handsome black Icon mixer tap is from Astra Walker. www.tfad.com.au.*



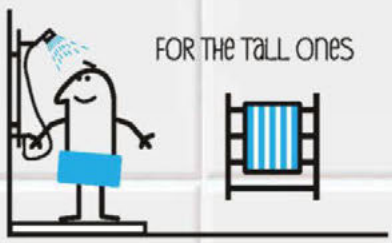
Photograph by Maree Homer/ bauersyndication.com.au (this page).

White delight As part of a whole-house overhaul, architect Philip Abram carved out space for this fresh laundry (above) in what had been a rarely used second living room. "The cabinetry opposite the sink conceals a laundry chute and hampers for both clean and dirty linen," he says. "Budget and layout allowing, this kind of sorting system would be a great inclusion in any laundry." The stainless-steel bench with integrated sink sits atop hand-painted drawers with Madinoz pulls and Hettich hardware. www.philipabramarchitects.com.au. H&G

Bathroom Happy Tip #7

ENJOY THE UPS AND DOWNS

A Waterail Shower is an easy retrofit for any bathroom. With the ability to adjust the height of the shower outlet, it adds convenience and flexibility for the whole family.





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special report

save your energy

Take the sting out of electricity and gas bills by making a few simple lifestyle changes, writes **Harvey Grennan.**



Electricity and gas make up a big slice of the household budget so it pays – or more to the point, saves – to use energy wisely.

There are some very simple ways to save hundreds of dollars a year in power costs – and there are even more savings if you dig a bit deeper. For example, washing clothes in cold rather than hot water could save you about $124 a year according to the Australian Department of Industry and Science. Drying laundry on a clothesline instead of in a dryer once a week could save you about $70 annually, and turning games consoles off rather than switching to standby could save up to $169 more.

That's only the start. Still more savings can be found shopping around for the best deal from power and gas retailers, buying energy-efficient appliances (for help, see our Buyer's Guide on page 183) and by adopting off-peak hot water or time-of-use pricing. If you have a smart meter installed, it can tell you when you are using the most power and your electricity distributor may be able to offer time-of-use pricing. With this you are charged different rates for different times of the day. With off-peak or time-of-use pricing, the more you move your energy use away from peak to non-peak times the more you save. Turn on the dishwasher and pool pump at night rather than during the day or only use the clothes dryer at weekends.

Most new electrical appliances – fridges, airconditioners, washing machines, computer monitors and so on – are required to have the energy-efficiency rating clearly labelled. There is also an energy-rating scheme for pool pumps, although this is voluntary. The more stars, the less energy the appliance consumes and the lower its greenhouse-gas emissions. A six-star appliance may cost more initially but it will save you money in the long run.

Electric hot-water heaters account for about a quarter of household energy use and have been phased out in some states. Any replacement should be a more efficient gas, solar or heat-pump unit.

Understanding your energy bills is an important step in managing energy consumption. Address the biggest sources of energy use – usually hot water, heating and cooling, and standby power.

If your energy consumption is high in winter, consider using warmer bedding or sealing gaps around doors and windows that are letting in draughts. You might also want to invest in roof insulation, heavier curtains (with a pelmet) or a more energy-efficient heater. Close doors or pull on a jumper before turning up the thermostat.

In summer, consider more efficient ways of cooling your house – open windows for cross-ventilation and opt for fans rather than airconditioning, for example. If you have a pool, run the pump only in off-peak periods.

Fridges are a common cause of energy leakage. For optimum efficiency, the fridge should be positioned in a cool spot (that is, away from the stove). Check door seals regularly for cold air leaking out and allow hot food to cool before placing it in the fridge.

Use thermostat controls to minimise energy use while keeping your home comfortable. Operate computers, printers and home entertainment for the shortest amount of time and turn them off at the power point when not in use. And switch off any unnecessary lights.

Your best opportunity to manage energy use efficiently is often when you are building or renovating. A well-designed floor plan and appropriate orientation on your block can make a huge difference. Choose energy-efficient building materials such as double-glazed or laminated windows and use plants and trees to provide shade and protection from wind. The council may require you to observe energy- and water-saving regulations but, if not, undertake a home sustainability assessment. ▶

Illustration by Domenic Bahmann.



Car alarm: Private car use accounts for more than a third of average household emissions – that's nearly five tonnes of greenhouse gases – each year. If you can, opt for public transport.

LITTLE CHANGES, BIG DIFFERENCE

- Wash clothes in cold water and only wash full loads.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full, scraping plates first and following with a cold-water rinse if needed. Fit a low-flow showerhead and take shorter showers.
- In winter, set the thermostat to 18–20˚C; in summer, set it to 25–27˚C: the closer the set temperature matches the ambient temperature, the less work the heating/cooling system has to do. Every extra degree increases your energy use by between 5 and 10 per cent. Close internal doors and only heat or cool the rooms you are using.
- In winter, open curtains to let the sun in and close them before it gets dark to keep the heat in – especially while your heater is on. In summer, close curtains during the hottest part of the day. At night open curtains and windows to let warm air out and cool breezes in.
- Turn off additional fridges and freezers when not needed or, better still, get rid of them altogether. Fill the kettle and saucepans with only as much water as you need. Reduce pool filter running time to the safe minimum. Dry clothes on the line rather than a dryer.
- Any items that have a little light on or clock are using power, and your mobile phone charger is drawing power even when your phone is not plugged in. Turn off appliances at the wall when not in use.

**Source: Livinggreener.gov.au.*

THE GREEN POWER SWITCH

To truly make a dent in your household's greenhouse-gas emissions, you need to access renewable energy.

For many Australians, solar power is the most effective option. The Australian PV Institute operates a live tracker that charts photovoltaic installations and generation (pv-map.apvi.org.au/analyses). At the time of writing, the tracker estimated that solar panels are currently generating a total of about 4.2 million kW of energy.

"The key to getting the most out of your solar is to ensure you run most of your appliances while you're generating power through the day, and to invest in a bank of batteries so you can store your own power," says Mark Byrne, energy market advocate for the Total Environment Centre and one of the people involved in collaborating with Greenpeace to produce its Green Electricity Guide.

This independent online guide (find it at www.greenpeace.org) delivers a state-by-state ranking of electricity retailers against seven criteria (including the retailer's balance of investments in fossil fuels and renewables), creating a tool homeowners can use to switch to more environmentally friendly power companies.

"When you switch to a greener power company you send a message to the other providers to do the right thing by the environment and hopefully change the face of the electricity sector in Australia," says Byrne.

If the greenest electricity options are not available where you live, your next best option would be to take up GreenPower from one of the major energy retailers in Australia. By purchasing GreenPower, you commit your electricity provider to purchasing the equivalent amount of electricity from accredited renewable-energy generators (harnessing wind, solar, water or bioenergy power, for example).

According to the latest GreenPower annual audit report (2013) there are more than 578,000 households in Australia that displace some, or all, of their annual electricity usage with GreenPower. More than 680,000 megawatt hours of GreenPower were purchased by households in 2013.

"At present 87 per cent of Australia's electricity is still generated by coal and gas-fired power stations," says Byrne. "The GreenPower program is currently under review and I anticipate that one of the recommendations for change might be that you can only buy a minimum of 50 per cent GreenPower." The review's findings will be delivered later this year. – *Sarah Pickette* **H&G**

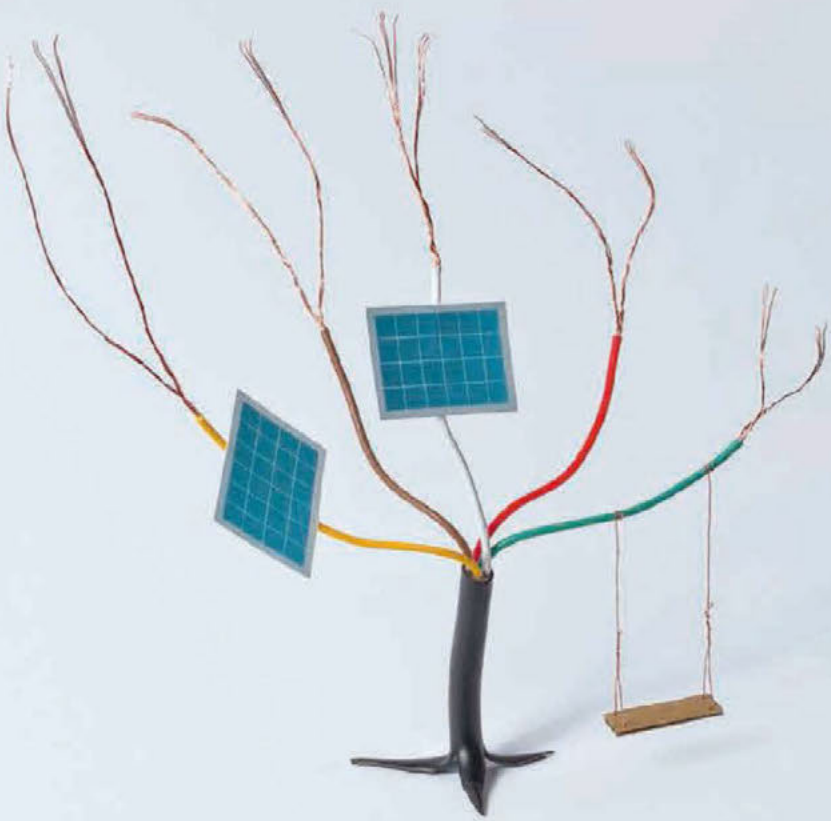


Illustration by Domenic Bahmann.

Welcome news

In May, the Australian Energy Regulator announced new caps on costs charged by energy providers in SA, NSW, Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT. Any costs above efficient levels will be funded by the network owners and not passed on to customers, which is expected to result in lower electricity bills for residential customers in those states. You may also be eligible for various state or federal rebates or assistance with your energy bills or the installation of a solar, turbine or heat-pump system. For more, go to livinggreener.gov.au/rebates-assistance.

Further reading

Livinggreener.gov.au Contains much more useful information on how to save on energy costs.

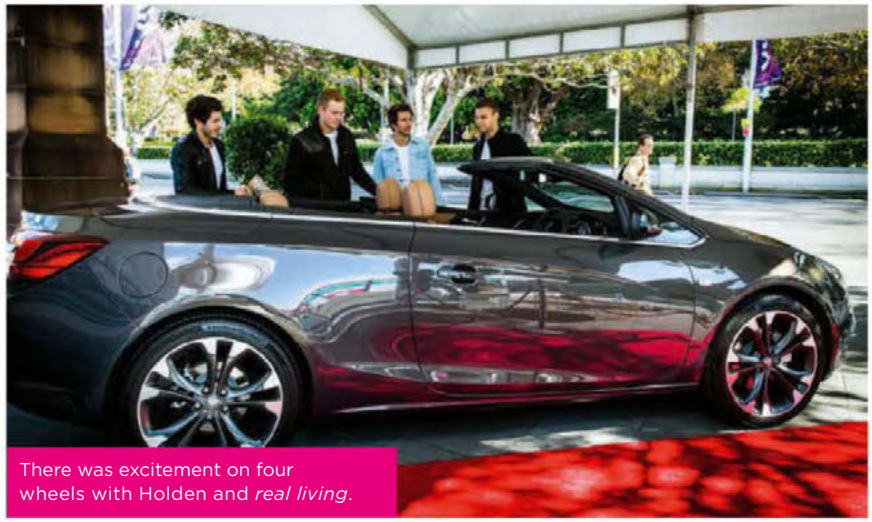
Energyrating.gov.au Allows you to compare the energy efficiency and running costs of the major brands/models of appliances.

Energymadeeasy.gov.au Compares the offers from electricity and gas retailers in your area based on your pattern of energy use.

HOME & FOOD & design WEEKEND

THE **HOME, FOOD & DESIGN WEEKEND 2015** WAS EXCITING AND EVENT-PACKED, HOSTED BY **AUSTRALIA'S LEADING FOOD, HOME AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINES.**

EDITORS AND INDUSTRY EXPERTS LED INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND HOW-TO DEMOS ON EVERYTHING FROM INTERIOR STYLING TO GOURMET COOKING IN A MARQUEE ON THE FORECOURT OF **ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL** ON MAY 23 AND 24.



There was excitement on four wheels with Holden and *real living*.



Makeovers were available thanks to Natio and *The Australian Women's Weekly*.



Delicious canapés were served, compliments of Superior Gold and *Gourmet Traveller*.



How to serve the perfect antipasto plate was made a breeze with Winning Appliances and *Gourmet Traveller*.



Salmon was the star attraction from Tassal and *The Australian Women's Weekly*.



Delightful French-inspired dishes took our guests on a culinary journey with Scenic.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENT, VISIT **HOMEFOODDESIGNWEEKEND.COM.AU**

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HOME & FOOD & design WEEKEND

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#HFDWEEKEND

ELISABETH KING, BEAUTY EDITOR AT *AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN*, MICHAEL BROWN FROM *MORNINGS* ON THE NINE NETWORK AND JENNIFER RANSOME FROM NATIO DISCUSSED THE SECRET OF BEATING SKIN DRYNESS AND DISCOMFORT IN WINTER WITH NATIO'S SKINCARE RANGE. **THE EXPERIENCED PANEL ALSO SHARED EXPERT TIPS** ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR SKIN SO YOU'RE **GLOWING ALL YEAR ROUND.**



BEAUTY AND HEALTH DIRECTOR OF *THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY*, SHEREE MUTTON AND ERIN HAGGART FROM NATIO DISCUSSED THE LATEST IN BEAUTY TRENDS WITH **A LIVE MAKEOVER SESSION** THAT SHOWED GUESTS HOW TO TRANSFORM THEIR LOOK USING **NATIO'S NEW PRECIOUS PETALS COLLECTION.** NATIO ALSO TREATED CONSUMERS TO **FREE MAKEOVERS** OVER THE WEEKEND WHICH WAS A **HUGE CROWD PLEASER.**







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FOR **MORE INFORMATION** ON THE EVENT, VISIT **HOMEFOODDESIGNWEEKEND.COM.AU**

ask an expert



Our resident decorating expert **Rose-Marie Hillier** reveals ways to create the illusion of space and lists her favourite family-friendly soft-flooring options.

WRITE IN

Send your question, with your name and address, to Rose-Marie via H&G Advice, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028, or email h&g@bauer-media.com.au.

Q We have a very narrow entry hall and would like some advice on the best colour to paint the walls – other than white please!
Peta Pettit, via viewa

A You can visually expand an area and create the illusion of space with a few clever decorative tricks. Creating a contrast between the ceiling, floor and walls – with darker tones on the floor and the ceiling and lighter tones on the walls – will lead to an effect that visually pushes the walls out. Another suggestion is to avoid contrast altogether and use tonal variations of colour for a seamless, flowing effect. I like the idea of painting your walls in a pale grey such as Dulux Dieskau or Taubmans Still Here, using quarter strength for the ceiling and half strength for the trim. When it comes to placing objects, focus on the diagonal – arrange any furniture at an angle to avoid a narrow 'bowling alley' look. You could also consider mirroring one of the long walls; this will throw off reflections to visually expand the width of the room. Position a hall table against this mirror. Furniture that allows light to filter underneath is also a good idea. Avoid hanging your photos and artworks in a long continuous line – hang pictures in random groups instead.
www.dulux.com.au,
www.taubmans.com.au.



Do you have a question for Rose-Marie? Use the free *viewa* app, scan this page and follow the prompts.

Photograph by Maree Homer/bauersyndication.com.au.



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FAST FIND

FAMILY-FRIENDLY CARPETS

Durability, stain resistance and softness underfoot are key when buying carpet, especially when children and pets are in the mix. Here is a selection of options that can handle the rough and tumble of family life...

Godfrey Hirst Sunrise (1)

The kinked molecular structure of the Triexta fibres (a polymer derived from corn sugar) makes it better able to resist staining, plus it offers exceptional colourfastness while being luxuriously soft. Most spills can be cleaned up with cold water. From $65/m² (installed); www.godfreyhirst.com.au.

Stainmaster Active Family (2)

Thanks to Stainmaster's proprietary stain-blocking technology, food and drink spills and dry soil pose minimal problems for this solution-dyed nylon carpet. It is also fade-resistant and anti-static. From $44/m² (installed); stainmaster.com.au.

Habitat Collection SolarMax (3)

This level cut-loop carpet, made by Cavalier Bremworth using Stainmaster's solution-dyed nylon yarn, offers outstanding fade and stain resistance yet feels soft underfoot. From $43/m² (supply only); choicesflooring.com.au. www.cavalierbremworth.com.au.

Redbook Green Scenic Walk (4)

This sumptuous carpet is another example of the wonders of eco-friendly Triexta. Softer carpets are best for absorbing sound, which makes this a great choice for playrooms. From $80/m² (installed); www.godfreyhirst.com.au.

British Carpet Company Variegato

Supremely durable Variegato is made from Karalon, a 'cashmere-feel' nylon yarn, and has an über-stylish design element with its striated cut-and-loop pile. $150/m² (installed); www.britishcarpets.com.

Brease Kohilo (5)

This solution-dyed nylon carpet has been designed with asthma and allergies in mind. It is antimicrobial and treated with Active Care, a salt-based treatment that absorbs and breaks down common odours. Exclusive to Choices Flooring. From $42/m² (supply only); choicesflooring.com.au.

Hycraft Bellavista II

Family-friendly and suitable for the amount of foot traffic produced by the average family household, this pure wool twist-pile carpet offers a natural alternative to solution-dyed nylon. From $46/m² (supply only); choicesflooring.com.au.

Tretford Cord (6)

Sustainably manufactured in Ireland from Mongolian goat hair, this tactile ribbed carpet is a natural insulator and sound dampener as well as incredibly durable. The palette of 61 colours is a bonus. From $95/m² (installed); www.gibbongroup.com.au. **H&G**

property

outer space



Outdoor space has become a highly prized and valuable commodity in urban living environments, writes **Harvey Grennan.**

BALCONY SCENE

A functional balcony needs to be an extension of the internal living space, says Harry Karadimas of SJB Architects in Sydney. "It needs a minimum depth of 2m, preferably 2.5-3m. A good design also takes into account privacy and views; on an upper floor this may mean a glass balustrade, and on a lower floor an opaque or solid balustrade."



Illustration by Domenic Bahmann.

SAVVY DEVELOPERS PLACE A LOT OF EMPHASIS ON CREATING USABLE BALCONIES AND TERRACES.

An accepted wisdom in the real estate industry is that the inner suburbs of capital cities outperform middle- and outer-ring suburbs. Whether they rent or buy, Gen X and Gen Y want to live close to work, entertainment, and cafes. Retired couples have also discovered the joys of skinny flat whites. Prominent Sydney real estate agent John McGrath recently said that suburbs close to the city will be "hot forever".

With ever more people opting to live in urban apartments, there's one factor that can make a huge difference to lifestyle and property price, and that's a decent balcony, terrace or courtyard. Australians love the outdoor life wherever they may park themselves, and the traditional backyard is morphing into a useable alfresco space.

Anyone looking for a property close to the city will know that older apartments generally have small balconies that are pretty useless for families or entertaining, and that townhouses in inner suburbs, even old and unrenovated ones, are in strong demand because they offer courtyard spaces.

John Yannakis of LJ Hooker in Sydney's Glebe says that a unit with a good-sized balcony or courtyard commands a significant premium. "They're a big selling point. There's a development in Glebe where there is a difference of $100,000 between the price of a unit with a smallish balcony and one with a courtyard."

Savvy developers place a lot of emphasis on creating useable balconies and terraces. Mirvac, for example, has enlisted landscape designer Richard Unsworth to assist with the landscaping of inner-city apartment projects.

Buyers, particularly those with small children, also value the proximity of a park. The economic and health benefits of open space in densely populated areas have been well researched and are recognised by local government authorities. The City of Sydney, for example, has more than 420 parks and open spaces. It spends up to $25 million a year on maintaining and improving its green spaces. In just one new urban release area, Green Square, it is planning another 16 to 19 new parks and open spaces.

In Melbourne, it's a similar story. The city has 480ha of parkland and is working to increase its tree canopy, to make urban living healthier and happier. H&G


Be an Angel for Animals
ALWAYS ADOPT. NEVER BUY.
Photo: Robert Sebree • Hair: Davy Newkirk for Tracey Mattingly • Makeup: Jennifer Pitt for Tracey Mattingly • Wardrobe: Britt Bardo for Magnet • Wing design: Mia Gyzander Costumes
Save a life by adopting from an animal shelter, and always give your animal companions the love and care that they deserve.
Yvonne Strahovski
WITH CHAZZIE & WILBUR FOR
PETA



FROM LEFT Son of a Gun recycled-denim **cushions,** $129/each, Palm Beach Black. Recta Abacá Ati Javanese woven **basket,** $90, Weylandts. Nkuku Fair Trade metal **stool** in Distressed Green, $140, Telegram Open House. Pacific Fair Trade hand-loomed **tote** in Ikat Blue/Natural, $62, The Dharma Door. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

50 fab eco-friendly buys for your home

SHOPPING

50 UNDER $150 / 9 BY DESIGN / BUYER'S GUIDE

Styling by Kayla Gex. Photograph by Pablo Martin.

50 FAB buys under $150

NATURAL INSTINCT

Cultivate inner peace with a raft of environmentally friendly products that look beautiful from every angle.

STYLING **KAYLA GEX** / PHOTOGRAPHY **PABLO MARTIN**

Washable paper **recycling bags** (31x25x58cm), $79/each, Uashmama. Fir slatted **crates,** $130/set of two, Citta Design. Wall painted Porter's Eggshell Acrylic in Bellbottoms, $43/L, Porter's Paints (throughout). Flowers, Poho Flowers (throughout). FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.





$60 / Australian-made Aromacology Happiness **diffuser reeds,** Ikou.



$50 / Recycled-paper **basket** with handles, Weylandts.



$50, $40 / Nkuku Etched recycled-glass **jars,** $50 (large), $40 (small), Telegram Open House.



$35 / Botanical soy **candles** in Scent No 1 and No 2, $35/each, Deckle and Hide.



$89, $129, $89 / Blue Jacket Boy, $89, Son of a Gun, $129, and Hey Papa, $89, recycled-denim **cushions,** Palm Beach Black.



$75 / Australian-made Pottery Collection Maidenhair linen **table runner** in Green, Bonnie and Neil.



$20 / Recyclable hemp **apron** in Emerald, Apple Green Duck.



$49, $29 / Bell recycled-glass **vessels,** $49 (medium), $29 (small), Pottery Barn.



$125 / Urban organic-cotton and hemp **backpack,** Happy Cow.



$140, $34 / Fair Trade Indian timber **coat rack,** $140, The r.e.a.l Store. Hemp string **bag,** $34, The Dharma Door.



$10, $40/ Sustainable-bamboo **salad servers** in Stone, $10, and **leaf platter** in Oat, $40, Eco Impact.



$36 / Punt recycled wine bottle **tumblers** in Green, $36/set of four, West Elm.



$96 / Ambatalia recycled-fabric **forager** in Grey, Mr Kitly.



$49 / Eco biodegradable **pot maker** for seeds and seedlings, Quality Products.



$90 / Nkuku Fair Trade jute **rug** in Green (90x60cm), Telegram Open House.



$42 / Rupalee Fair Trade hand-forged brass-handled steel 15cm **scissors,** Douglas and Bec.



$85, $110 / Siwa recycled-paper reusable **boxes** with lids, $85 (small), $110 (medium), Mr Kitly.



$8 / Sustainable bamboo **bowls** in Stone, Oat and Mint (15cm), $8/each, Eco Impact.

For product details, turn to page 189.



$140 / Nkuku Fair Trade metal **stool** in Distressed Green, Telegram Open House.



$130 / Retro non-stick PFOA- and PTFE-free ceramic **casserole dish** (18cm), Neoflam.



$19 / Eco Max coconut fibre and rubberwood **broom,** Import Ants.



$80 / Plumiere flax-fibre **napkins** (set of six), Eco Chic.



$80 / Nkuku sustainable-mangowood **pizza board,** Telegram Open House. ▶

For Where to Buy, see page 188.



$69 / Organic Plant stainless-steel **plant food maker** (29x28cm), Quality Products.



$45, $60 / Bamboo and polycarbonate **iPhone case for iPhone 6** in Dancing Dandelion, $45, and bamboo **iPhone case for iPhone 5** in Kaleidoscope, $60, iBark.



$39 / Recycled-cotton jersey **bath mat** in Slate, West Elm.



$90 / Magno Seto sustainably sourced mahogany and sonokeling five-piece **stationery set,** iBark.



$47, $37, $37 / The Jado **cool and hot bottles** in Pistachio Yellow, $47 (700ml), Benaud Beige, $37 (500ml), $37, Uluru Orange (500ml), The Jado.



$10, $11, $13 / Monarch **paintbrushes** with recycled-bamboo handles, Bunnings.



$35 / Mifuko Zulia Fair Trade plastic and sisal **table mats** in White, Black and Blue, $35/each, Safari Living.

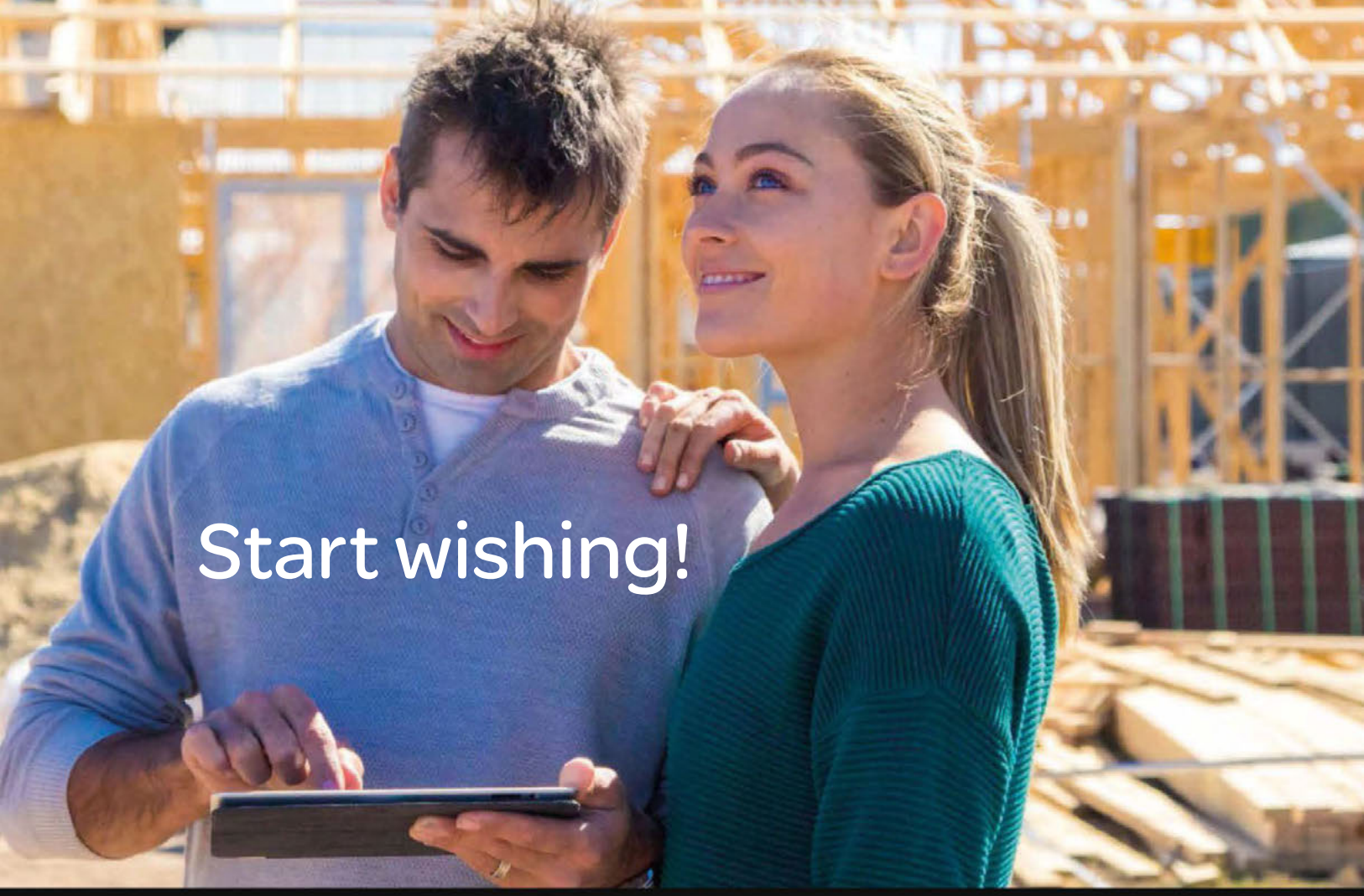


$11 / Nacht eco-friendly paper **envelope sacks,** $11/set of four, Lightly.



$29 / Cleansing Sweet Orange & Lavender organic **liquid washes,** $29/each, Theseeke. **H&G**

For Where to Buy, see page 188.





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9 BY DESIGN

TEACUPS



1 / Just My Cup of Tea porcelain **tissage cup,** $32 (includes saucer), The Bowerbird's Nest; thebowerbirdsnest.com. **2 /** Robert Gordon Australia Society porcelain **teacup,** $20 (includes saucer), Domayne; www.domayne.com.au. **3 /** Forest Fable Pear Cameo ceramic **teacup and saucer,** $20, Mozi; www.mozi.com.au. **4 /** Côté Table Café Grande Linen ceramic **teacup,** $35, Honeybee Homewares; www.honeybeehomewares.com.au. **5 /** William Kilburn Coupe bone china **teacup and saucer,** $17, Maxwell & Williams; www.maxwellwilliams.com.au. **6 /** Oiva Siirtolapuutarha stoneware **teacup,** $27, Marimekko; www.marimekko.com. **7 /** Rose Rush fine bone china **teacup and saucer,** $26, T2; www.t2tea.com. **8 /** Dawn Vachon Slab stoneware **teacup,** $55, Craft Victoria; www.craft.org.au. **9 /** Florentino Fresh stoneware **teacup,** $13, Bed Bath N' Table; www.bedbathntable.com.au. Mr Jason Grant queen-size linen **flat sheet** (used as tablecloth), $160, Major Minor Sydney; www.majorminorsydney.com. Sukat Makkaralla glass **pitcher** (used as vase), $89, Marimekko. Tealovers Water Garden glass **teapot,** $30, The Berry Tea Shop; www.theberryteashop.com.au. Wall painted Endure in Aqua Queen (three-quarter strength), $40/L, Taubmans; www.taubmans.com.au. **H&G**

Styling by Kayla Gex. Photograph by Will Horner. Flowers from Poho Flowers.

9 BY DESIGN

PAPER SHADES



1 / Krusning paper **pendant light shade,** $20, Ikea; www.ikea.com.au. 2 / Cage metal **pendant light** with Tyvek polyethylene-fibre shade, $1189, West of May; www.westofmay.com. 3 / Bee Gone Honeycomb **pendant light** with paper shade, $345, Sala Verde; www.salaverde.com.au. 4 / Completed **pendant light** with cardboard and paper shade, $199, The Minimalist; www.theminimalist.com.au. 5 / Origami Teardrop paper **pendant light shade,** $129, Freedom; www.freedom.com.au. 6 / Nacht Moth **pendant light** with paper shade, $198, Lightly; www.lightly.com.au. 7 / Grand Trianon **pendant light** with Tyvek polyethylene-fibre shade, $295, Safari Living; www.safariliving.com. 8 / Salago Medium **pendant light** with lacquered paper pulp shade, $1655, Space; www.spacefurniture.com.au. 9 / Wayfarer **pendant light** with paper shade in Maps, $295, Eco Chic; www.ecochic.com.au. **H&G**

Produced by Kayla Gex.

COSY OUTLOOK

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FROM LEFT / Mossman cotton **fringed cushion** in Natural, $60. Avalon cotton **cushion** in Charcoal, $60. Gracetown acrylic **fringed throw** in Blue, $70. Glass **votive** in Navy, $10. Etched glass **bottle,** $30. Wooden **table lamp and shade** in Natural, $140. Sorrento large round stoneware **cup and saucer** in Mint, $18. Perry two-tone cotton and polyester **nesting basket,** from $40. All from the Australian House & Garden range, exclusive to Myer; 1800 811 611 or www.myer.com.au.

Styling by Ashley Pratt. Photograph by Chris Warnes.

H&G ESSENTIALS

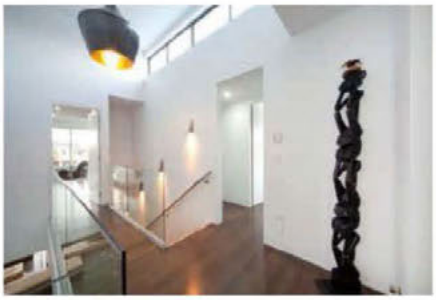
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BUYER'S GUIDE

Energy-efficient WHITEGOODS

Look for low-consumption performers when sourcing kitchen or laundry appliances, writes **Sarah Pickette**.



Photograph by Chris Warnes/bauersyndication.com.au.

Appliances can be energy-hungry beasts. They account for one-third of the average household's electricity expenditure – but you can reduce that figure by factoring in energy efficiency next time you're buying whitegoods.

"If you haven't bought an appliance recently you might be surprised at how much better some of the latest releases perform in comparison to older models," says Anne Armasin, energy expert at Origin Energy. "Take the always-on fridge; if you replace a 15-year-old model with a new one you will save at least $100 a year in running costs."

Today's refrigerators consume an impressive 75-per-cent less electricity than models manufactured in the late 1970s, says ▶

INDUCTION COURSE

Induction cooktops work thanks to built-in high-frequency electromagnets that generate a powerful magnetic field when steel or iron cookware is placed on its surface. This causes the cookware itself to heat up — without wasting energy heating the cooking surface. "Induction cooking is recognised as one of the quickest and most efficient methods of cooking, allowing instant and accurate temperature control," says Aleks Efeian, brand manager for Bosch. "As an example, our induction cooktops with 3.3kW PowerBoost heat up to 2L of water from tap temperature (15˚C) to a low boil (90˚C) in just 4 minutes. A gas cooktop using 1.9kW/6.8 Mj/h of energy would take 12 minutes."

Lambro Skropidis, general manager of marketing at LG Electronics. "Even as recently as 2010, 4-star energy rated fridges largely didn't exist," he says. "But in 2014 sales of refrigerators with 3.5 energy stars or higher grew by nearly 11 per cent and those with energy star ratings of 1.5 or less declined by about 50 per cent."

The energy-star rating system – in which more stars equals better energy efficiency – has made appliance consumption comparisons easy. It may have been around since 1985 but the program continues to evolve, with a 10-star high-performance label now available for particular products (refrigerators and televisions) that have been continuously developed to become more efficient than a six-star label would represent.

"Choosing a less energy-efficient appliance over a more efficient model is like rejecting a big discount on the ticket price," says Alan Pears, sustainable energy and climate researcher at RMIT University. "Your choice locks in energy costs for the life of the appliance. Saving just 100kWh per year can be worth more than $250 over the 10-year life of an appliance – and maybe a lot more."

A 2014 BIS Shrapnel report into Australian buying practices showed that shoppers tend to rank energy efficiency fourth when it comes to appliance purchase decisions (behind price, size or capacity, and brand reputation). There is one exception, says Aleks Efeian, brand manager for Bosch: dishwashers. "When it comes to dishwashers, energy and water consumption rate as the top driver in the buyer-consideration process," he says. "We're consistently striving to reduce energy and water consumption without compromising on performance." Built into Bosch's new Series 8 ActiveWater dishwasher is what the company calls Zeolith drying technology: natural zeolite minerals convert moisture into heat energy, meaning less energy is required to complete the drying process.

Clothes dryers are another category where inroads have been made into lowering energy consumption. "Dryers are perceived as expensive to run," says Rachel Lewis, product manager of laundry and care for Miele. "Customers place considerable importance on the star rating of dryers. Our heat-pump dryers achieve six stars, but they're 20-per-cent more efficient than the current highest star rating." Washing machines perform better than ever, too – in terms of both energy and water consumption. Motor improvements and sensor technology in the latest models ensure they deliver an outstanding wash performance using minimal resources.

Every manufacturer realises energy efficiency is the key aspect of performance and they must strive to continuously refine their products. The results of improvements made in the past decade are already evident, says Pears.

"According to my estimates from data in the Department of Industry review, the value of energy saved in Australia in 2013 alone was about $3.2 billion. Of this, some $2.7 billion was saved by households, mostly through improvements in appliance efficiency," he says. "The savings in energy use were equivalent to seven per cent of all Australian electricity consumption: an average Australian household saves about $6 per week thanks to appliance energy efficiency."

Go to www.energyrating.gov.au for product energy-efficiency comparisons.

Replacement value

Ever wondered whether it's worth replacing your old fridge? Alan Pears, sustainable energy and climate researcher at RMIT University, believes so. An example, he says, is a 15-year-old two-door fridge with a motor that runs a lot of the time (this indicates it could be faulty). It's likely to be costing $100 a year more to run than a new, energy-efficient refrigerator. "When you consider you'll probably to have to buy a new model in the next five years anyway you're better to start tapping into those energy savings sooner rather than later."



DISHWASHERS

DW60CKX1 DISHWASHER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1199

Boasting a 5.5-star WELS rating as well as a high energy rating, this 14-place-setting dishwasher has a half-load program, energy-saving delayed-start option and a three-way self-cleaning filtration system.
Fisher & Paykel; 1300 650 590 or www.fisherpaykel.com.au.



BDW4610X DISHWASHER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1699

A 6-star WELS rated model, this dishwasher saves energy by auto opening its door to allow dishes to finish drying naturally. Its eco programs reduce the rinse temperature and it switches to standby mode after five minutes.
Blanco; 1300 739 033 or www.blanco-australia.com.



IVFIX4 DISHWASHER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1899

This 15-place setting fully integrated dishwasher has a 5-star WELS rating, a turbo-drying system and eight wash options. Among them are an auto-sensing program and a rapid wash that uses just 0.5 kW/h of power.
Ilve; (02) 8569 4600 or www.ilve.com.au.



SMS69T28AU SERIES 8 ACTIVEWATER DISHWASHER, 4.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $2399

This dishwasher has Zeolith technology and uses 20-per-cent less power than other energy-efficient dishwashers. 4.5- star WELS rating. It's quiet; operating at about whisper volume (42dB).
Bosch; 1300 368 339 or www.bosch-home.com.au.



REFRIGERATORS

SRL455DLS A 455L FRIDGE/FREEZER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1599

The inverter compressor in this bottom-mount Samsung model is the secret to its low energy consumption. It also features a water dispenser that doesn't need to be plumbed in.
Samsung; 1300 362 603 or www.samsung.com.au.



GN-W450UPL 450L FRIDGE/FREEZER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1849

Again, it's the inverter linear compressor in this 450L bottom-mount model that delivers its class-leading energy efficiency. Its 'smart diagnosis' feature allows the fridge to tell you when it needs a service.
LG; 1300 542 273 or www.lg.com.au.



ETM4200SD 420L FRIDGE/FREEZER, 4-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1869

As well as a good energy rating, this top-mount model uses a refrigerant that's better for the environment than the standard product. An intelligent airflow system ensures optimal cooling.
Electrolux; 1300 366 366 or www.electrolux.com.au.



FAB32RRDNA1 326L FRIDGE/FREEZER, 3.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $5690

This retro-fabulous offering from Smeg features an environmentally preferable refrigerant and a tropical rating, which means it's a good choice for those in our warmest climes.
Smeg; (02) 8667 4888 or www.smeg.com.au.



WASHING MACHINES

NA-140VS4WAU 10KG FRONT LOADER, 4.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1699

This new model has a 4.5-star WELS rating. It features an auto-off function when not in use and Econavi sensors, which assess fabrics in the wash, adjust water temperature and load volume.
Panasonic; 132 600 or www.panasonic.com.au.



AQUALTIS AQ94 F49D AUS 9KG FRONT LOADER, 4.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1799

A 4-star WELS rating is teamed with Direct Injection Technology in this model. Eco-Tech is among the 16 programs on offer; it will assess the load composition and adjust the wash accordingly.
Ariston; 1300 762 219 or www.aristonbrand.com.



WD14071SD6 DIRECT DRIVE 10KG FRONT LOADER, 4.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $1899

A great energy rating is paired with a 4.5-star WELS rating. An inverter motor drives six different drum movements for an efficient wash. There's a steam cycle for delicates too.
LG; 1300 542 273 or www.lg.com.au.



WKF130 PWASH AU 8KG FRONT LOADER, 4.5-STAR ENERGY RATING, $2599

Features a powerful, efficient motor and a 4.5-star WELS rating. The QuickPowerWash completes a full cycle in less than an hour plus offers the user energy-consumption feedback.
Miele; 1300 464 353 or www.miele.com.au.



DRYERS

EDH3284PDW 8KG HEAT-PUMP DRYER, 6-STAR ENERGY RATING, $2019

Using less than half the energy of a standard condenser model, this dryer activates humidity sensors three times during the drying cycle to ensure energy draw is minimised. It also has an auto-off function.
Electrolux; 1300 366 366 or www.electrolux.com.au.



T754CHP 7KG HEAT-PUMP DRYER, 6-STAR ENERGY RATING, $2199

Asko reports that using a condenser dryer once a week costs $76/year, while a heat-pump dryer cuts that to $42/year. In this model, sensors calculate the drying time so no excess energy is used.
Asko; 1300 002 756 or www.asko.com.au.



NH-P70G2WAU 7KG HEAT-PUMP DRYER, 6-STAR ENERGY RATING, $2499

Drying clothes at 45°C allows Panasonic's new dryer to save energy and protect your clothes while doing so. An inverter ensures this process is carried out using the least energy possible.
Panasonic.



T1 TKG 450 WP 8KG HEAT-PUMP DRYER, 6-STAR ENERGY RATING, $2899

Aided by EcoFeedback functionality, which reads and forecasts energy consumption, this heat-pump dryer alerts its owner when cleaning of the filter is required (this is crucial for cutting consumption).
Miele. H&G

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Acapulco Chair acapulcochair.com.au
Adairs 1300 783 005; www.adairs.com.au
Aero Designs (03) 9429 4910; www.aerodesigns.com.au
Angus & Celeste (03) 9752 4004; www.angusandceleste.com.au
Apple Green Duck (03) 9489 4723; www.applegreenduck.com
Artemide 1300 135 709; www.artemide.com.au
Artifort, available from Ke-zu 1300 724 174; www.kezu.com.au
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Sunbrella, available from James Dunlop Textiles 1300 667 390; www.jamesdunloptextiles.com
Supreme Windows (08) 9249 1388; www.supremewindows.com.au

Styling by Kayla Gex. Photograph by Pablo Martin.



From page 175

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Goats' milk **soap** in Rose, Geranium & Patchouli and Lemon Myrtle with Exfoliating Leaves, $6/each, Few and Far. Sustainable-bamboo **bowl** (15cm), $8, Eco Impact. Hydra-Repair organic **day cream** in Camellia & Geranium Blossom, $50, and Matte Balancing organic **moisturiser** in Açai Berry & Borago, $60, Grown Alchemist. Eco Max coconut fibre and alstonia **vegie brush,** $8, Import Ants. Elixir Nourish & Soothe organic **face serum**, $33, and Elixir Balance & Purify organic **face serum**, $33, Theseeke. The Ring bamboo and recycled-bristle **vegetable/nail brush**, $7.

Surrounding Australia (03) 9005 6253; surrounding.com.au
Susan Avery Flowers and Events (02) 9363 1168; www.susanavery.com
Sussex Taps (03) 9308 6599; www.sussextaps.com.au
T Tantra Imports (02) 4871 2488; www.tantramirrors.com.au
Taubmans 131 686; www.taubmans.com.au
Telegram Open House www.telegramopenhouse.com
The Country Trader (02) 9698 4661; www.thecountrytrader.com.au
The Dharma Door (07) 3420 6011; www.thedharmadoor.com.au
The Jado www.thejado.com
The Natural Floorcovering Centres (02) 9516 5726; www.naturalfloor.com.au
The Orient Express (03) 9421 3288; www.theorientexpress.com.au
The r.e.a.l Store (02) 8356 9993; www.therealstore.com.au
The Rug Establishment 1300 447 466; www.therugest.com
Theseeke www.theseeke.com
The Selvedge Group 1300 721 157; www.theselvedgegroup.com.au
Tigger Hall Design (03) 9510 2255; www.tiggerhall.com
Tiles by Kate (02) 9949 4300; www.tilesbykate.com.au
Totalspan 1300 868 257; totalspan.com.au
Tub Design (03) 9328 3024; www.tubdesign.com
Tuck Plumbing Fixtures (08) 9444 7988; www.tuckplumbtec.com.au
U Uashmama www.uashmama.com.au
Ugg Australia (03) 9386 5544; www.uggaustralia.com.au
V Valspar (02) 8867 3333; www.valspar.com.au
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Z Zanui 1300 668 317; www.zanui.com.au

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On our cover

With its all-natural materials and storage aplenty, this beautifully detailed kitchen ticks every box for an inner-Sydney family. Photography by Maree Homer. To see more, turn to page 80.



Get in touch

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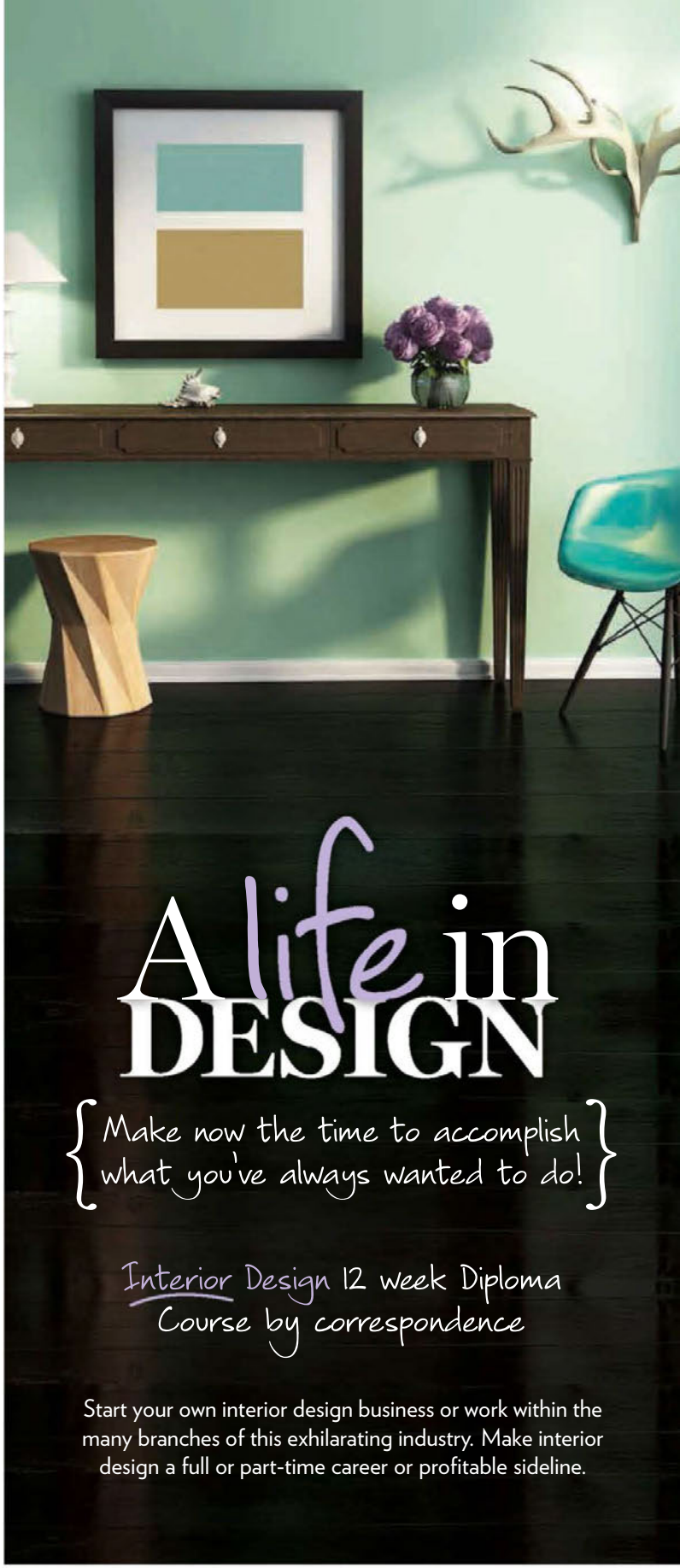
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Pretty petals
ENJOY EVEN MORE GARDEN GORGEOUSNESS FROM THIS YEAR'S RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, PAGE 114.

IN THIS ISSUE

Guest quarters Take a tour of the fab self-contained rooftop studio at the home of WA architect Ariane Prevost, page 79.
City sights See more of this perfectly formed and cleverly arranged inner-Sydney home, page 85.
Bonus recipes Michael Rantissi's date & honey tea cake, page 137, and fried potatoes in red wine by Jared Ingersoll, page 140.
Kitchen know-how Darren Palmer shares his techniques for designing a sizzling kitchen, page 46.
Ask away Send in your queries. Interiors expert Rose-Marie Hillier will solve your decorating dilemmas, page 167.

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Photograph by Nicole England (bathroom).

my insta life

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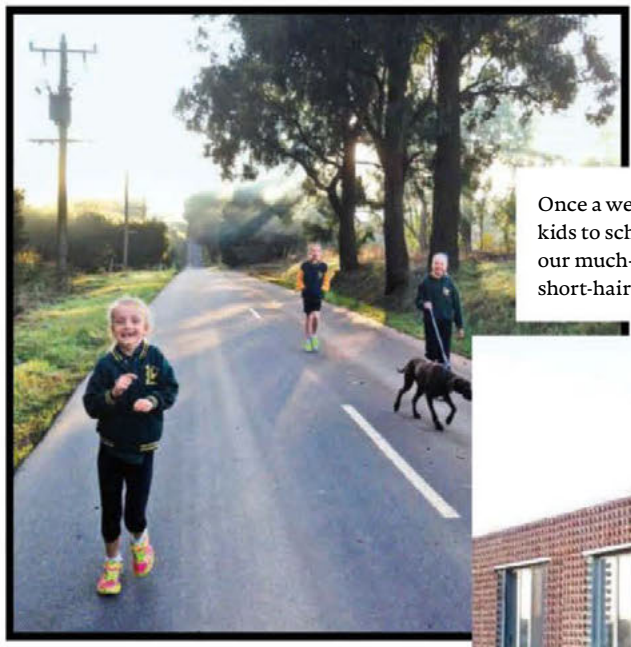
Floral artist and designer
@joostbakker

Smokebush is one of my favourite trees – I have 200 of them. I cut them for their purple foliage and plume-like flowers or when they turn red, orange and yellow in autumn. This branch and its rings were formed in one season.





When I first started out, I spent a lot of time foraging, and picking wild fennel was a must. I now grow it, fertilising it with compost from the restaurants. It grows incredibly tall and is so much more beautiful than the wild stuff I used to pick.



Instagram Download the photo-sharing app and follow us at @houseandgarden.

Once a week I try to walk the kids to school, always taking our much-loved German short-haired pointer, Molly.



Every autumn we prune the thousands of 'Rugen-Alexandria' strawberry plants that are vertically planted around our house in Monbulk, Victoria. It's a hybrid variety similar to a wild strawberry and the plants become so lush that it's hard to see the pots. The kids love the fruit – as does the local rosella population!



These old-fashioned roses were grown at Goodwood Roses. We used 5000 for last year's Lexus Marquee at Flemington. @lexusaustralia



About 15 years ago I was commissioned to create lights for the Stokehouse [restaurant]. I made them from old training wire that flower growers use.



For some reason I'm the go-to guy when people are getting rid of old-style light globes – recently I was offered 10,000! For this job, we cut off the metal end and used them as vases to hang the roses.

Produced by Alaana Cobon.



1 / Bethany Linz **Raoul non-woven wallpaper in Powder Blue (149cm wide), $92/m,** Sparkk; (02) 9517 4600 or www.sparkk.com.au. 2 / Resin gem **pendant necklace set** in Oxblood and Winter, $45, Elk; (03) 9478 1800 or www.elkaccessories.com.au. 3 / Ellie Cashman Moonlight Meadow velvet **cushion** in Blue (60x60cm), $245, The Design Hunter; (02) 9369 3322 or www.thedesignhunter.com.au. 4 / Blue Mountains linen-polyester **cushion** (43x43cm), $130, Kerrie Brown; (02) 9386 1738 or www.kerriebrown.com. 5 / Feather print silk **scarf** in Black, $135, Elk. 6 / Powder-coated aluminium outdoor canteen **chair** in Shale Grey, $320, Industria X; (03) 5979 8311 or www.industriax.com.au. 7 / Bloomingville Isabella porcelain **teapot,** $50, French Bazaar; (03) 9017 7892 or www.frenchbazaar.com.au. 8 / Nile cotton **throw,** $100, Eb & Ive; (02) 9667 1991 or www.ebandive.com.au. 9 / Jute **laundry basket,** $157, The Dharma Door; (02) 6629 1114 or www.thedharmadoor.com.au. **H&G**

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